

Hafa Adai!

NMC notes increase in number of graduates passing NCLEX-RN. PAGE 2
SBA extends COVID-19 loan application deadline. PAGE 7

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 4

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 2021

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MINORITY BLOC REPORT FINDS:

'Torres made 102 trips'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives minority bloc reported yesterday that records they reviewed show that Gov.



Torres

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 6, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,357	21	7,378
Recovered	7,132	13	7,145
Active	89	21	110
Deaths	123	0	123
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			103,756

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	125	0	125
Traced via Travel Screening	99	0	99
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			141

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Ralph DLG Torres took 102 trips from January 2015 to July 2020 that cost the CNMI government at least \$490,000 in airfare, per diem and stipends, lodging, ground transportation, boat transportation, fuel, and incidentals.

» **First lady made 31 govt-funded trips**
» **Lawmakers recommend OAG, OPA to investigate further; ask 22nd Legislature to continue legislative oversight**

In the same 24-page report, the minority lawmakers also noted that, because Torres nearly always traveled with companions, including his

See TORRES on Page 4

Warnock makes history with Senate win



Georgia Democratic senate candidate Raphael Warnock speaks during a campaign rally in Augusta, Ga., Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

By STEVE PEOPLES, BILL BARROW and
RUSS BYNUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP)—Democrat Raphael Warnock won one of Georgia's two Senate run-offs Wednesday, becoming the first Black senator in his state's history and putting the Senate majority within the party's reach.

A pastor who spent the past 15 years lead-

See WARNOCK on Page 4

Parole board mulls early release for man convicted of killing infant

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole is now deliberating whether or not to grant early release for a man who is currently serving a 60-year sentence after being convicted of killing a 6-month-old infant back in 2000.

The Board of Parole is set to decide this Friday whether to grant or deny Reynaldo Manila's application for parole.

See PAROLE on Page 4

MUTE WITNESSES

Three tower cranes atop the Imperial Pacific Resort building in Garapan stand as mute witnesses to the continuing struggles of parent company Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which is facing numerous legal and labor problems, ranging from claims of unpaid services, to delayed payrolls. IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne recently disclosed that some \$2.3 million has been infused into the company and that this will take care of the employees' six payrolls. He said the money is a loan.

NEIL FAMA



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Mariana Nails welcomes men and debunks the notion that self-care in nail salons is just for women.

PAGE 11



ENVIRONMENT

The CNMI kicks off the new year "clean and right" with a community cleanup in Tanapag.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Dr. Dre receives treatment at a Los Angeles hospital for a reported brain aneurysm.

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Local

NMC notes increase in number of graduates passing NCLEX-RN

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College reports that most of its newest nursing graduates passed their licensure exam on their first attempt, which it says is a pass rate higher than the previous year's pass rate.

According to Citizen Centric Report that the college submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor, 85% of the college's students who graduated with associate degrees in nursing passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN, on their first try.

This is the exam that nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam results will show the students' knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico expressed in a previous interview how proud

he is of these NMC students. "We are really proud of the cohort of students that graduated in May 2020. ...Most of them have already passed the NCLEX-RN test already. So now, [they] are working as registered nurses and are on their way to working as registered nurses and adding to that capacity of health care workforce in our community, battling not just the pandemic but other health care issues for the CNMI," said Eliptico.

He is equally proud of the rest of the students who graduated in May 2020. "We are really proud of our students... not just in nursing but in all other fields. Whether they're paramedics, firefighters, or police officers, they're [all] front-liners. We have 1,300 students who are working at the airport, the seaport, grocery stores, wholesale stores—they're working in areas that are considered front-line," said Eliptico.

He said that all of NMC's alumni and even current students are everywhere in the community and helping in

powering the economy, whether it be at the Commonwealth Health Center, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Public Safety, their own business, etc., and that he's proud of where they are at now.

The Citizen Centric Report also shows that NMC had the highest enrollment in the fall of 2020, at 1,323. In 2019, they had the second highest fall enrollment at 1,318. In 2020, NMC reported that 262 students graduated with degrees in Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Science, and Certificate of Completion.

As of Jan. 6, just as NMC was finalizing the Fiscal Year 2019 Citizen Centric Report, its fiscal year 2020 audit report is still being conducted as an extension was granted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. That the report will be available before Dec. 31, 2020.

"It is worth noting that NMC has received a favorable audit opinion (an unqualified opinion) on its financial statements for the past 11 years," said NMC.

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Guam's DPHSS warns community about COVID-19 scams

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In light of the urgency of obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine, Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services is warning the community of scams that are related to the COVID-19 vaccine and Medicare.

According to a DPHSS statement yesterday, Medicare beneficiaries who want to get the COVID-19 vaccine won't have to pay for the vaccine. DPHSS also strongly warns that if anyone asks beneficiaries to share their Medicare number, or pay for access to the vaccine, it is a scam.

DPHSS warned the community not to share personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

DPHSS confirmed that one cannot pay to put one's name on a list to get the vaccine and can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.

"Be suspicious of anyone going door-to-door to offer free coronavirus or COVID-19 testing, supplies, treatments, or vaccines. Ask for ID and make sure the individual(s) are employed by DPHSS first," said DPHSS in a statement.

Also, DPHSS says to be aware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. "Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19-related treatment," said DPHSS.

In addition, community members should always review their Medicare Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits to look for errors or claims for products or services that weren't received. DPHSS stated that the information that was provided to them is available at medicare.gov.

According to various media outlets, scammers and other threat actors have launched over the past few weeks their own programs to steal personal information, conduct identity theft, scam victims, and all with the potential for criminal financial gain—all in the name of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as INTERPOL, released a statement in December 2020, warning of potential criminal activity in relation to the falsification, theft, and illegal advertising of COVID-19 and flu vaccines. This included examples of crimes where individuals have been advertising, selling, and administering

fake vaccines.

"Criminal networks will also be targeting unsuspecting members of the public

via fake websites and false cures, which could pose

a significant risk to their health, even their lives," said Jürgen Stock, Interpol secretary-general.

So far, there has been no report yet of an instance related to a COVID-19 scam in the CNMI.

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8 outgoing lawmakers bid farewell at House *sine die*

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Eight outgoing members of the House of Representatives bid goodbye during the chamber's *sine die* or final session on Capitol Hill yesterday.

Many of the eight outgoing lawmakers—Reps. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan), Roman C. Benavente (R-Saipan), Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan), Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), Antonio SN Borja (R-Tinian) and Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), and

Franklin R. Babauta's (Ind-Saipan)—became somewhat emotional in their respective speeches, with Castro saying the past two years has not only been rewarding but also challenging.

"[In] the two years that we sat in this chamber to debate and discuss the issues of the day, we faced challenges that many of us didn't expect to face," Castro said.

Maratita said the 21st Legislature was bittersweet for her—bitter because there are some legislations that she wishes were enacted, bitter because of Super Typhoon Yutu

that devastated the island and the livelihood of people, especially in her district, and bitter because of the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to devastate not only the Marianas but also the world, but also sweet because, despite these many challenges, they were able to work together in the 21st Legislature that would help people get through these unprecedented times in CNMI history.

Itibus thanked his constituents in Precinct 3 for giving him the opportunity to serve them for two terms. "This is not the end of it. And let's

go out there and still do and reach out to our people out there," Itibus urged other outgoing lawmakers.

Babauta said he appreciates the friendships that he shared with the lawmakers. "I hope that in the future, those of us that are not here will contact each other. And let's come up here and challenge these guys. Let's make comments. It's our turn to stand over there and tell these guys to speak up," said Babauta.

Borja said there's no difference between the minority and the majority as, at the end of the day, they are still one for the people of the CNMI.

Benavente said he appreciates those who voted for him as well as to those who didn't because they have contributed to the exercise of the democratic approach. Benavente said that, although he represents Precinct 1, he represents the people of the entire CNMI as a member of the Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero, Peter, Benavente, Itibus, and Castro did not succeed in their bids for re-election at the Nov. 3 general elections. Borja and Maratita did not seek re-election. Babauta filled the two months left in the term of then-representative Edwin K. Propst who had resigned.



Members of the 21st House of Representatives pose a group photo for the last time during their *sine die* at the chamber yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

TORRES

From Page 1

wife, personal security detail, other staff, and other officials at government expense, the total actual cost of executive travel during the period in review is "significantly greater."

They said the reviewed records showed that first lady Diann Torres traveled with Torres on at least 31 government-funded trips between December 2016 and December 2019.

They lawmakers recommended that legislative oversight into Torres' public expenditures should continue into the 22nd Legislature.

The report was signed by House minority leader Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) and Reps. Franklin Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Richard Lizama (D-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), and Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Sablan informed House members about their report and briefly discussed it during the House's *sine die* or final session yesterday morning.

The minority lawmakers noted that the law requires that every government travel should be for official business purposes and undertaken to benefit the people of the CNMI. Further, they said, within 15 days after a trip, the traveler is required to submit a detailed report and documented travel expenditures.

The lawmakers said the law prohibits the use of government funds for first-class, business-class, or any other premium-class travel.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan*

Tribune was still waiting for comments from Torres and first lady Diann Torres, who was also included in the report's findings.

The minority members recommend that legislative oversight should be conducted on the Department of Finance to review the status of adoption of uniform travel regulations for the government, and the implementation of Finance policy regarding official representation and reimbursements.

They said the Legislature should pass a law to eliminate government housing benefits for key elected officials and to explicitly prohibit by law the use of public funds to pay the utility bills of any government officials, or of any persons, at their private residences.

They said lawmakers should engage the Office of the Attorney General and/or the Office of the Public Auditor in looking into alleged waste, fraud or abuse of public funds, misconduct, and other violations of law. "We urge for a fair, diligent, and responsible investigation, with the ultimate goal of improving accountability for public funds and restoring trust in the people's government," said the six minority lawmakers in the report.

They said Torres should be afforded due process and the opportunity to respond to issues of concerns.

According to reports, of Torres' 102 government trips, 78 involved travel outside of the CNMI and at least 40 of these trips were first-class—in violation of the law on restrictions on government-paid travel outside the CNMI. They said gov-

ernment travel records indicate that first-class and business-class airfare costs for Torres alone during the period in review totaled approximately \$178,000.

They said the records of some of these trips are incomplete, lacking supporting documents such as travel vouchers with itemized costs of travel tickets or itineraries, and some trips may have involved the use of frequent flyer mileage or similar upgrades from economy-class fare.

Torres' wife also allegedly traveled first-class and business-class at government expense in violation of the law and Finance regulation, which bars the use of public funds to cover travel expenditures for non-government employees. In general, the minority lawmakers said, spouses of government officials are not recognized as official government positions.

They said the records reviewed showed that Diann Torres traveled on at least 31 government-funded trips between December 2016 and December 2019.

Of these 31 trips, they noted, 27 were with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, including 14 first-class and business-class trips between January 2017 and December 2019, and that airfare costs alone for Diann Torres during this period totaled \$82,000.

Minority lawmakers said the cost to the government for first-class and business-class airfare alone for Torres and his wife totaled \$22,674.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

WARNOCK

From Page 1

ing the Atlanta church where Martin Luther King Jr. preached, Warnock defeated Republican incumbent Kelly Loeffler. It was a stinging rebuke of outgoing President Donald Trump, who made one of his final trips in office to Georgia to rally his loyal base behind Loeffler and the Republican running for the other seat, David Perdue.

The focus now shifts to the second race between Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff. That contest was too early to call as votes were still being counted. If Ossoff wins, Democrats will have complete control of Congress, strengthening President-elect Joe Biden's standing as he prepares to take office on Jan. 20.

Warnock's victory is a symbol of a striking shift in Georgia's politics as the swelling number of diverse, college-educated voters flex their power in the heart of the Deep South. It fol-

lows Biden's victory in November, when he became the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since 1992.

Warnock, 51, acknowledged his improbable victory in a message to supporters early Wednesday, citing his family's experience with poverty. His mother, he said, used to pick "somebody else's cotton" as a teenager.

"The other day, because this is America, the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," he said. "Tonight, we proved with hope, hard work and the people by our side, anything is possible."

Loeffler refused to concede in a brief message to supporters shortly after midnight.

"We've got some work to do here. This is a game of inches. We're going to win this election," insisted Loeffler, a 50-year-old former businesswoman who was appointed to the Senate less than a year ago by the state's governor.

PAROLE

From Page 1

During a hearing yesterday, board chair Ramon Camacho raised a concern whether Manila is remorseful. Manila said he does feel remorse but insists he does not know what happened and did not intend to kill the child, and was merely trying to revive her by shaking her after she fell from a bed.

Manila said that he found God in his 20 years in prison and that he deserves a second chance to show that he has repented.

However, the mother, father, and sister of the infant all contested Manila's claims, saying that up until today, Manila has never reached out to them to ask for forgiveness.

According to the mother, Manila was a good family friend, so close that they were family once, but Manila has never reached out to her to ask for forgiveness for the death of their daughter or to even check up on them since their daughter passed away.

The mother begged the board to deny parole for Manila, saying that, although it can never bring back their child, it gives their family peace of mind that justice is being served and that Manila won't do what he did to their child to another child.

The father said that up to this day, their family lives with the loss of their firstborn and, although

they have forgiven Manila with a heavy heart, they still want justice to be served and justice can only be served if Manila continues to serve his sentence.

The infant's younger sister also stood before of the Board of Parole in tears, stating that she fears Manila and what he was able to do to an infant. She added that their family has been through so much, living the loss of her sister everyday, and Manila has never once tried to put himself in her parent's shoes to reach out and ask for forgiveness.

Manila did not seek forgiveness from the victim's family during yesterday's hearing.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, OAG Chief Prosecutor John Bradley also opposes the grant of parole to Manila because of the seriousness of the crime.

"Manila took the life of an infant and has never accepted responsibility for his actions. He should not be released into the CNMI community. Should parole be granted...Manila [must] be deported," Bradley said.

He argues that Manila does not accept responsibility for his crime and continues to deny that he caused the death of the child. "He says he is a 'victim of justice.' He still claims that the baby simply fell, which was not consistent with the medical evidence. The infant had bleeding in the brain and retinal hemorrhaging, consistent with Shaken Baby Syndrome," Bradley said.



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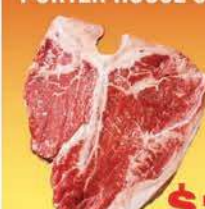
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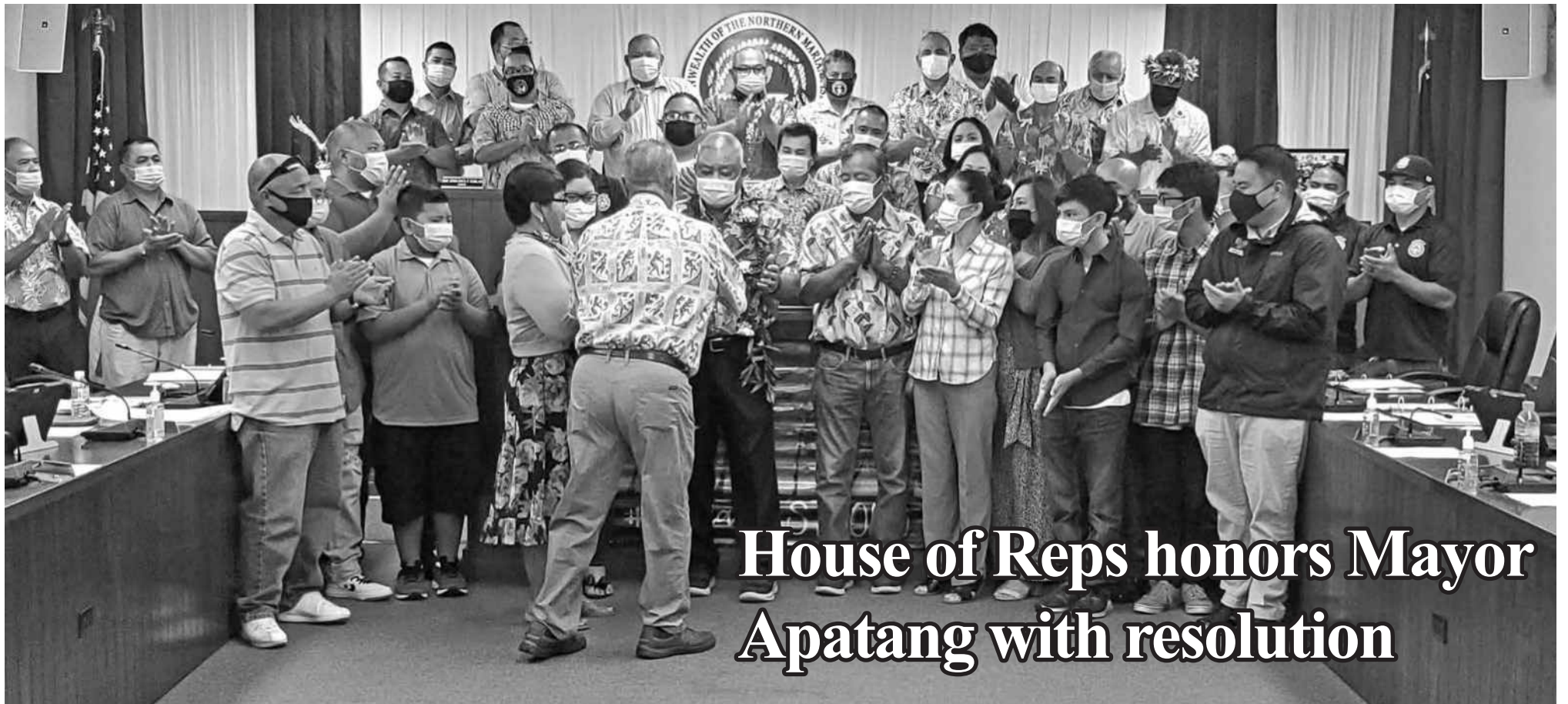
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House of Reps honors Mayor Apatang with resolution

Reps. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) and Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) present a House resolution to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as lawmakers and Apatang's family members and Mayor's Office's staff cheer during the House's *sine die* or final session yesterday. The House honored Apatang for his more than 50 years of service to the people of the CNMI and the United States. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives presented during yesterday's *sine die* or final session a House resolution to Saipan Mayor David Mundo Apatang to honor his more than 50 years of service to the people of the CNMI.

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), who introduced the House resolution, read it first before presenting it to Apatang. Family members, friends, and Mayor Office's staff were present at the presentation at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

"I'm very honored for this recognition. It's a very emo-

tional," Apatang said. "Usually you don't get honored for doing a lot of stuff. But I really appreciate it."

A tearful Apatang thanked the lawmakers, his family, and staff for supporting him. "We will continue to work together," he promised, adding that he will never forget receiving the resolution.

Maratita said Apatang achieved so much in his personal, professional, and public life and, as Saipan mayor for two consecutive terms (January 2015 to January 2023), has "made and continues to make many important strides that have had such a positive impact throughout

the villages of Saipan."

Apatang was with the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1987, seeing combat in Vietnam and stationed in various locations in the U.S. and around the world, including the Panama Canal Zone; Wurzburg, Germany; and in Vietnam. Upon retiring from military service, Apatang returned home and began his public and political career, serving in local government for more than 33 years: as chief of Procurement and Supply, acting director of Finance and accounting, member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, and representative in the CNMI Legislature for

seven consecutive terms prior to being sworn in as Saipan mayor in 2015.

Maratita said that Apatang developed a positive and helpful relationship with Japan and

South Korea during his tenure as mayor, and has worked cooperatively with the Executive and Legislative branches on issues of mutual importance, including typhoon prepara-

tion and response; road, water and drainage improvements; beach/tourist site improvements and maintenance; and emergency communications, among other things.

2 confirmed, 6 probable leptospirosis cases in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam has received reports of two confirmed and six probable leptospirosis cases in late December 2020 and early January 2021. There were three confirmed and five probable cases from October through November 2020. All 16 cases have been treated with antibiotics.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic infection, which may be fatal, that is transmitted from animals to humans by infected urine through the environment. Infection can occur through breaks in the skin or through the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth. The wide range of leptospirosis symptoms (high fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, jaundice, red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhea and rash) and their poor specificity can be mistaken for other diseases (i.e. dengue fever or influenza).

Without treatment, the dis-

ease can lead to serious complications (e.g. kidney and liver failure) and even death. It is therefore crucial that people who feel sick with a fever and think they have the disease quickly consult a doctor. Early antibiotic treatment is a major determinant of rapid recovery and prevents most of the severe complications and fatalities.

Heavy and torrential rainfall caused by tropical cyclones and storms are important triggers of leptospirosis in endemic settings like Guam and other tropical islands. Epidemiological evidence suggests that the contamination occurs at the time of heavy rain, flooding events or very shortly after, thus leptospirosis cases will seek medical care one to three weeks after storms. Since Guam has had a lot of rain and stormy weather recently, this is the likely reason why the DPHSS is seeing numerous confirmed and probable leptospirosis cases. Historical

information shows leptospirosis infection in Guam occurs mainly in people who have been hiking and/or swimming in streams and rivers in the southern part of the island.

The risk of acquiring leptospirosis can be greatly reduced by not swimming or wading in water that might be contaminated with animal urine, or eliminating contact with potentially infected animals. Protective clothing or footwear should be worn by those exposed to contaminated water or soil because of their job or recreational activities.

For more information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, see <https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/index.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/resources/leptospirosis-fact-sheet.html>.

To report leptospirosis cases, contact territorial epidemiologist Dr. Ann Pobutsky at (671) 888-9276 or ann.pobutsky@dphss.guam.gov. (PR)

The Athlete's Foot is latest NMC ProaPerks Partner

The Athlete's Foot is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on regularly priced items at The Athlete's Foot.

Other ProaPerks partners are 153 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Boarderline, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant, Great Harvest, Healing Stones Spa, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Kiki's, Kevin's Cafe, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Latte Built, Salty's,



The Athlete's Foot is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on regularly priced items. **NMC**

Saipan Computer Services, Surf Club, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tribe Marianas, Triple J Motors, The Pacific Supply, and Pena House Boutique.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

Emergency water outage in parts of San Antonio

There will be an emergency water service interruption in San Antonio, specifically in the areas of Kacho Avenue, Hakmang Avenue north to Guili Street, and Gatdas Avenue beginning today, Jan. 7, 2021, until the completion of the repairs.

This is due to a 6-inch asbestos cement pipe waterline leak near the former Her Joy's Apartment on Katcho Avenue

in San Antonio.

Water service to the affected areas will be limited daily beginning today from 6:30am to 3pm.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are scheduled to make the necessary repairs on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at 8am and anticipate completion by 4:30pm. Twenty-four-hour water service will

resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes when traveling by the repair site.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

SBA extends COVID-19 loan application deadline

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Small Business Administration announced yesterday that the deadline to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program for the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster declaration is extended to Dec. 31, 2021.

The deadline extension comes as a result of the recent bipartisan COVID-19 relief

bill passed by Congress and enacted by President Donald J. Trump on Dec. 27, 2020.

To date, the SBA has approved \$197 billion in low-interest loans that provide working capital funds to small businesses, non-profits and agricultural businesses make it through this challenging time.

“Following the President’s

declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has approved over 3.6 million loans through our Economic Injury Disaster Loan program nationwide,” said SBA administrator Jovita Carranza. “The EIDL

program has assisted millions of small businesses, including non-profit organizations, sole proprietors, and independent contractors, from a wide array of industries and business sectors, to survive this very diffi-

cult economic environment.”

EIDL loan applications will continue to be accepted through December 2021, pending the availability of funds. Loans are offered at very affordable terms, with a 3.75% interest rate for small businesses and 2.75% interest rate for nonprofit orga-

nizations, a 30-year maturity, and an automatic deferment of one year before monthly payments begin. Every eligible small business and nonprofit are encouraged to apply to get the resources they need.

To learn more, visit www.sba.gov. (PR)

PBS Guam app launches in Guam and the CNMI

MANGILAO, Guam—PBS Guam, KGTF, Channel 12 announced yesterday the release of its PBS Video mobile application, which has launched in both Guam and the CNMI.

This application is the first of its kind for Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands and allows viewers to watch the live PBS Guam broadcast from anywhere.

PBS Video is available for free download on the Apple App store and the Google Play store. Users will be able to watch entertaining and educational PBS Guam television programs live, as we would on television. When using the application for the first time, a pop-up will show that the application has been localized to the PBS Guam station. Users are advised to keep this setting by clicking on the “Dismiss” response button.

Watch all your favorite PBS programs like *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, *Dinosaur Train*, *PBS News Hour* and more live. Previous episodes are also available to watch; in case you couldn’t catch it live. When registered within the application you can create your own playlists, mark your favorites, and receive notifications on upcoming broadcasts. Want to see what’s coming up? The PBS Guam broadcast schedule is also available to view in the application.

“Through the support of The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS Guam has been afforded this wonderful opportunity to allow our Guam residents and our sister island residents in the Northern Marianas Islands access to free educational and informative programs,” said Ina C. Carillo, general manager, PBS Guam KGTF Chan-

nel 12. “I have been in contact with several residents of Saipan and Rota and have received their confirmation that the applications are indeed working properly in these areas.”

Also available for download on both operating systems, PBS KIDS Video mobile application. This application features all of PBS’s distinguished children’s programs that allows children and their parents to watch PBS Guam KGTF live 24-7 children’s programming. In this application, children can also select episodes of their favorite PBS Kids shows like *Curious George*, *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Super Why*, and *Sesame Street*.

About PBS Guam, KGTF, Channel 12

For over 50 years, PBS Guam

KGTF Channel 12 has been serving the island community of Guam by providing quality and meaningful programming that aims to educate, inform and inspire viewers of all walks of life. To do this, PBS offers programming (such as *Sesame Street*) that expands the minds of children, documentaries that open up new worlds, non-commercialized news programs (such as *Frontline*) that keep citizens informed on world events and cultures, Masterpiece drama series (such as *Victoria*) and programs that expose America to the worlds of music, theater, dance and art not found on mainstream media. PBS Guam also aims to reflect the community’s vibrant cultural, artistic and civic interests by offering stimulating and diverse, locally engaging content. (PR)

Search on for missing mariners off Midway Island

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and good Samaritans are searching for a life raft from an adrift 95-foot Taiwanese fishing vessel approximately 550-miles northeast of Midway Island, Tuesday.

Multiple Coast Guard aircrews with assistance from the Navy aircrews and Taiwanese vessels are searching for 10 crew members possibly aboard a life raft after the vessel was found adrift Jan. 1.

At 9:38pm last Friday, Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu watchstanders received a report from Rescue Coordination Center Taipei stating they had lost contact with the Taiwanese fishing vessel *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*.

After multiple failed attempts to contact the vessel via satellite phone, JRCC Honolulu watchstanders issued a SafetyNet broadcast, contacted commercial vessels in the area, and launched an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew to conduct a search for the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18*.

Upon arriving in the area the Hercules aircrew located the vessel and attempted to contact the crew over the radio with no response. Poor weather conditions prevented

the aircrew from observing any crew members aboard and due to low fuel the Hercules aircrew returned to base after taking imagery of the vessel.

Upon analysis of the imagery it was discovered there was damage to the ship and one of the vessel’s life rafts was missing. JRCC Honolulu Watchstanders deployed assets to search the area and reached out to partners for assistance.

Currently searching are two Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point C-130 Hercules aircrews, a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak C-130J Hercules aircrew, four Taiwanese fishing vessels, and a Navy Boeing P-8 Poseidon aircrew. (USCG)

Blue Eagle Enterprises, LLC.
is accepting application for:

20-11-88108 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

No. of Opening: One (1)
Salary Range: \$41.00 hourly
Job Classification: Engineering Occupations
Job Duties: Prepare computation of electrical, technical drawings, specifications for electrical systems; prepare specifications for purchase of materials/equipment; estimate labor, material and construction costs for budget purposes, plan control, and direct operations of multi-venture enterprises led by electrical construction contracting business.

Qualification Requirements:
Must be a graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering, five years work experience in related field. Must be familiar with computer systems for electrical design and drawings. Knowledge of practical application of engineering, science and technology, effective reasoning, problem solving and communication skills, management and supervisory experience in business. Interested applicants may email their comprehensive resume with employment certificates, college diploma or transcript of records to blue_eagle_enterprises@yahoo.com or may call telephone number (670) 233-3839 from Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPW-030
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
“PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) PORTABLE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - SAIPAN”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Roberto “Rob” Lusito is no longer connected with Sagittarius Corporation dba as Sagittarius General Construction effective January 1, 2021.



Any business transaction made by him on the company’s behalf will not be honored by the aforesaid Company. Please report any such unauthorized transaction to our contact numbers at (670) 235-4796 / 785-4796 or email us at sagittarius1197@gmail.com.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-DCCA/DYS-028
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.
“PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) CLASS “I” VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 · San Jose Village · Tinian, MP 96952
E-Mail: tinianscholarship@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-0504 | Facsimile: (670) 433-0504

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - December 22, 2020 (TMSB Regular Meeting)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. General Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - B. Budget
 - C. Review of TMSB Rules & Regulations
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

¹We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC Section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
³Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Matthew T. Gregory, Esq., F0205
Law Office of Matthew T. Gregory, LLC
Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 603
PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-9005/6 | Fax No. (670) 235-9007
Email Address: matt@gregoryfirm.com

Attorney for Pacific Eco Laundry

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pacific Eco Laundry, Inc.)
Plaintiffs,) CIVIL CASE NO. 0110A
v.)
Tae Ho Kim)
Defendant) SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
TAE HO KIM

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to Verified Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within (21) days after service of this Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to Plaintiffs’ attorney, whose address is: Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza, PMB 419, Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the above-named Court Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default will be taken against you for the relief requested in the attached Verified Complaint.

By order of this Court.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020

By: /s/ Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-BECQ/DEQ-026
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS FOR BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN & ROTA-CNMI FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** IN THE 2ND FLOOR OF BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM NO. 205). **ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING.**

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MR. ROBERT DELEON GUERRERO** AT robertdlguerrero@becq.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JANUARY 28, 2021** ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/DYS-027
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021 TIME: 9:00 A.M.
OFFICE/BUILDING SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 4

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

George Floyd lived a life that mattered

We have all seen the video record of what happened to George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police on May 25. While viewers are free to interpret those images for themselves, it will be up to the courts to decide what crimes, if any, were committed.

Regardless of any legal determination, though, Floyd's personal story—as reported in exhaustive, heartbreaking detail by Star Tribune reporter Maya Rao and photographer Carlos Gonzalez on Dec. 27—illuminates a truth that some have been lamentably slow to accept:

Black lives matter.

Compassion should not depend on familiarity. It should not require such painstaking journalism to make us realize that Floyd, who was 46 when he was killed, had a life. But Rao and Gonzalez add details and context that make him come alive in the imagination. He loved and was loved. He was capable of seeing the best in others and of helping those less



Mural portrait of George Floyd in Berlin, Germany.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

fortunate than himself. He was convicted of breaking the law and did his time. His life was far from perfect.

His life mattered.

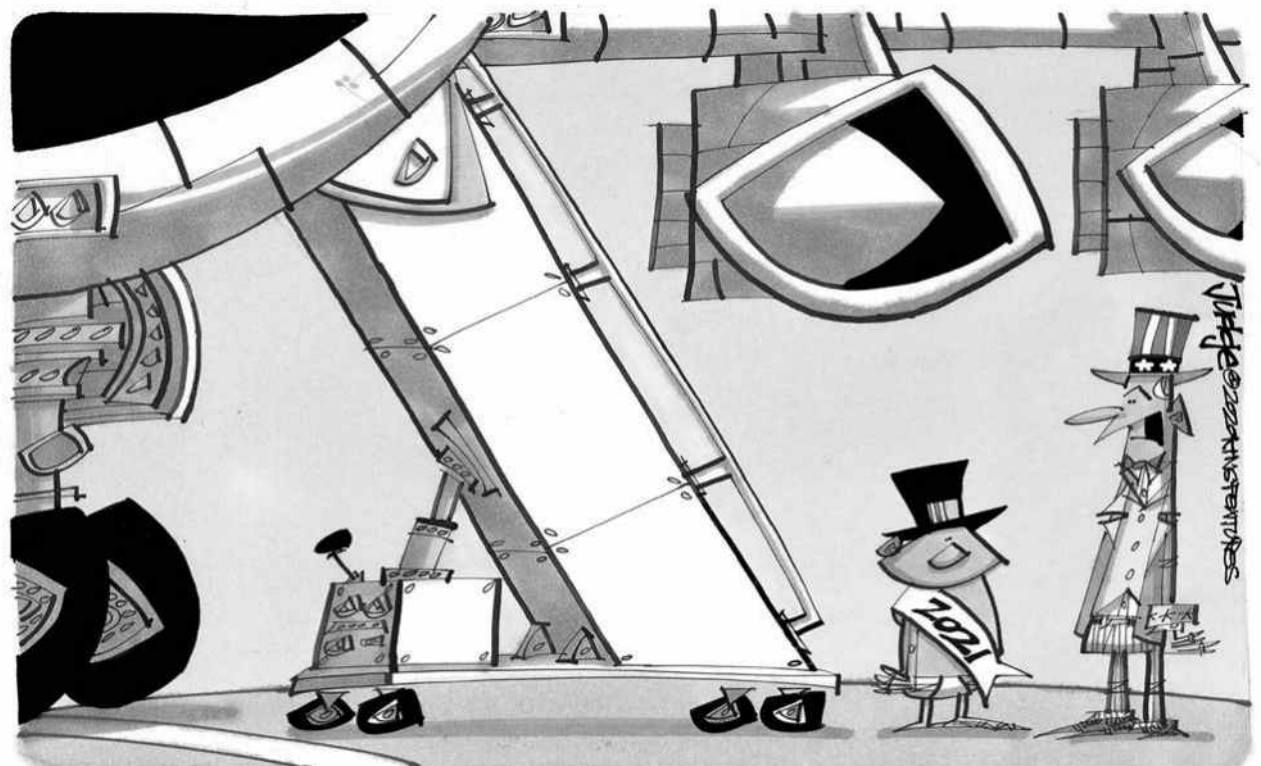
In this story we see why those words have such power. What happened to Floyd, his neck trapped beneath the knee of a police officer for nearly eight agonizing minutes, becomes exponentially more painful when it happens to someone we know.

In the legal proceedings to come, defense attorneys will make their arguments on behalf of the officers who were called in response to a report that Floyd had tried to pass a counterfeit bill at a grocery store.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office issued its final public report in June, ruling Floyd's death a homicide. The report stated that Floyd "experienced a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by law enforcement officer(s)." It listed "arteriosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease," as well as fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use, as "other significant conditions."

That Floyd relapsed into drug abuse is part of his story, but not the whole picture. People in recovery know that relapses are common. They like to say that no matter how many

See **GEORGE** on Next Page



"SINCE YOU WERE IN GREAT BRITAIN BEFORE ARRIVING HERE, I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT YOU IN QUARANTINE FOR 72 HOURS."

Pandemic isolation has been brutal for schools. The best idea for 2021 is the exact opposite

The raging debate about whether to reopen schools during the coronavirus pandemic seems destined to come to an end in the next few months.

Not because they finally figured out the right path, based on infectious disease controls or societal values. But because of the vaccine.

I don't blame anyone for not solving this one. Whether to send kids and teachers back into classrooms, or keep doing Zoom school, was 2020's impossible issue.

The growing damage to some kids of keeping schools closed is painfully clear. At the same time, more than 300 school employees around the country have died from COVID-19 (what complicates this tragic stat is that it isn't known for many whether they caught the virus at school, because testing and contact tracing has been so spotty).

Scientists have since learned more about how the coronavirus spreads, and concluded in a study last week that some schools probably could have been reopened faster. Especially had we deployed more testing, to better track outbreaks and understand the rates of disease spread in surrounding communities.

Looking back, though, we tended to devote those testing resources to things like getting college and pro football back up and running.

The intractability of all this was highlighted for me in October, when a doctor forwarded an open letter by five pediatric physicians, arguing that schools for younger kids should reopen. They made a good case. But then I asked the doctor, based on his own experience with infectious disease controls in local hospitals, whether he himself would be willing to stand in a classroom with dozens of kids rotating through for six or eight hours each day.

His answer: "For the record, no way in hell would I do that ... My sense is that our education system is so broken and under-resourced that many cannot even fathom what it would really take to do this safely ... there are lots of things that can make this safe, if only we choose to do them."

Story of the pandemic right there. Lots we could have, should have done, but didn't.

The hope now is that this "impossible issue" could—repeat could—be made somewhat moot by the vaccine.

There are only 3 million K-12 public school teachers in America. If we made it a priority, we could have National Teacher Vaccination Day, offering them all the shot in one day. Then go back to in-person school (after the waiting periods for the vaccine to take effect). There would still have to be PPE and other disease controls, and many parents may still choose not to send their kids, but at least the decision-tree logjam would be shaken up.

I know, hoping technology will fix a problem is the easy way

By **DANNY WESTNEAT**

The Seattle Times

Danny Westneat is a columnist for The Seattle Times.



out. But with vaccination here, I'd argue we should be more focused now on the future anyway—on how students are going to recover from a degraded year of schooling.

So here's a big idea for 2021: Why not use the federal COVID relief money, which clocks in at \$824 million for K-12 schools for Washington state, for example, on a jobs program in which we hire older students to do one-on-one tutoring in schools?

Two education professors at Brown University just proposed this on a national scale. They argue the best way to tackle COVID-19 learning loss would be to hire 300,000 to several million part-time tutors nationwide.

"Tutoring is among the most effective education interventions ever to be subjected to rigorous evaluation," they write. "Our blueprint is that ... high school students would tutor in elementary schools, college students in middle schools, and full-time 2- and 4-year college graduates in high schools via AmeriCorps."

"Returning schools to the way they were when they closed last spring will not heal the damage students have sustained," echoes Robert Slavin, an education research director at Johns Hopkins University, who has also proposed what he dubs a "tutoring Marshall Plan."

This is the best COVID recovery idea I've heard yet, by far. For starters, one-on-one tutoring just works. It isn't that costly—one of the proposals above estimates around \$1,000 per year per kid. That means tutoring, say, half the K-12 kids in Washington state, could cost on the order of \$550 million—only about 2% of what the state spends on schools annually (and less than the \$824 million the state was just granted in schools COVID relief).

It could help jump-start the pandemic-frozen job prospects of high school seniors and college kids. More crucially, it could reintroduce Zoom-quarantined little kids, many of them poor and falling behind, to one-on-one academic attention from another human.

That last part is priceless. Social distancing can stem the spread of a disease. But the year of our pandemic has shown how brutal isolation can be for public education. Maybe the key to a more promising 2021 involves doing the exact opposite.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rwanda's disturbing arrest of the hero of 'Hotel Rwanda'

The Trump administration has developed a global reputation for coddling dictators, but it has an opportunity in its waning days to leave on a different note.

The authoritarian government of Rwanda is holding an unusual captive in one of its jails: Paul Rusesabagina, the former hotel manager who rescued 1,268 people from the 1994 Rwandan genocide and whose story was portrayed in the film "Hotel Rwanda." Rusesabagina is a U.S. resident and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by George W. Bush in 2005.

Prosecutors in Rwanda have charged Rusesabagina with terrorism and supporting armed rebels in a conspiracy to overthrow the dictatorial government of Paul Kagame. The government will have to prove its case at trial. But it is beyond doubt that Rusesabagina will not get justice in a Rwandan courtroom.

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo can help repair the administration's notoriety as a friend to strongmen by pressuring Kagame to turn over the accused hotelier to an international court. The matter has now become even more urgent: Rusesabagina's family reports that he is being denied medication for his chronic hypertension and may suffer a stroke.

How Rusesabagina wound up bound and blindfolded in a Rwandan jail cell is a crime in itself. On Aug. 29, he boarded a private jet in Dubai he thought would be shuttling him to the East African nation of Burundi to talk to some contacts. But the plane was staffed with members of Kagame's security services, who flew him to Rwanda, where he was arrested and is now awaiting trial.

Rusesabagina became an unlikely international figure about

a decade after the genocide in 1994 that claimed 800,000 victims, mainly of the Tutsi ethnic minority. He had opened rooms in the Hotel des Milles Collines, the luxury hotel he managed, to those who would have otherwise been hacked to death by Hutu militias. For 89 days, he deployed a sommelier's combination of diplomacy and flattery to keep the militias from killing any of his guests.

He didn't see his actions as particularly heroic and expected little more than a letter of commendation from his corporate bosses back in Brussels. But the director Terry George and the screenwriter Keir Pearson unearthed his story and helped bring "Hotel Rwanda" to global screens in 2004. Later that year, I signed on to help him write his autobiography and he became a U.S. resident.

Over the years, Rusesabagina has been a strong critic of the Kagame regime's authoritarian actions against the Hutu ethnic majority and political dissidents. In a 2018 speech, Rusesabagina said it was time "to use any means possible to bring about change in Rwanda. As all political means have been tried and failed, it is time to attempt our last resort." The government claims that remark is a call for violence.

Kagame has long made Rusesabagina a target of a campaign by state media to insinuate that he charged money for the hotel rooms and turned over people to be killed. None of those allegations are true. Alison Des Forges, a historian of the genocide, fact-checked his autobiography and said his account was "true to what I have witnessed and experienced in this complicated society."

Kagame's 26-year dictatorship has brought stability and eco-

By TOM ZOELLNER

Los Angeles Times

Tom Zoellner is a professor at Chapman University and the co-author of Paul Rusesabagina's autobiography, An Ordinary Man.



nomie growth to Rwanda. But much of that has come at the expense of free speech, free elections, free commerce and justice. Nobody expects Rusesabagina to receive a fair trial.

The Trump administration has done little to demand evidence or press for Rusesabagina's transfer to a safer jail under the watch of neutral authorities. This is not surprising for a president who tacitly backed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman after Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. resident and journalist, was murdered by Saudi assassins in Istanbul.

There is still time for the State Department to do the right thing, as previous American administrations used to do: demand justice on behalf of its residents imprisoned overseas. The Rwandan genocide leaders of 1994 were tried under international laws in Tanzania in a court assembled by the United Nations. At the very least, the Trump administration should insist that Rusesabagina be released from prison to seek proper medical treatment and that any trial be fair and open to international monitors.

Some resolutions to contemplate

Well, 2020 is done, 2021 is underway, and let's try to end this pandemic, get our economy going, restore law and order, bring back family, educate our children, once more embrace our highest principles, value both individualism and community and love and serve each other. It won't be easy, least of all if we assume the American past has been a trash heap or that liberty-shrinking, misconceived policies are the answer.

It's true, of course, that, as 2020 closed out, the electorally dismissed President Donald Trump found a monster costume, put it on over his frequently worn clown suit and growled absurdly. Even so, his shenanigans were no match for what we have been seeing from too many know-it-all bureaucrats and intellectually awry office holders opposed to him. We need some resolutions of, by and for the people if we are to rise beyond one of the worst years in our country's history.

No list could be complete, but let's start with the most protective programs reasonably possible for those most vulnerable to COVID-19 even as we give businesses a chance, end unjustifiable lockdowns and avoid a depression worse than the one in the 1930s we call "Great." Unless we first destroy the economy for years to come, the supposedly impossible vaccine, which right now seems ridiculously controversial in some circles, can save us, although reestablishing as robust a system as we previously had will take time.

Let's open our schools. We've known it's safe for quite a pe-

riod now and we've also known that Zoom-education is next to no education and that we are wrecking young lives by the millions. Teacher unions have a lot to do with this, and it's time to get rid of them. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt pointed out, we don't want a small, self-interested group using collective bargaining to replace constitutionally devised government by the people. The unions have been no boon, either, in a system that's failing to teach young people to read proficiently, one of the most important objectives in making good lives possible.

The most needed police reform is to get rid of police unions that have too often made it possible for malfunctioning cops to get away with their misdeeds. What isn't needed is "defunding" of a kind that lessens our chances of escaping crime by lessening the number of police on the beat. If you think Black people are cheering, note that more than 80% want to keep police in their neighborhoods.

Anti-racism protests have in some cases turned into riots, and that's hardly the best way to attack racial disparities. An extremely beneficial way would be to end the demolition of family, given the fact that children raised in fatherless homes are more likely than those with a dad on hand to drop out of school, commit crimes, commit suicide and stay poor. This is a cultural, not a political issue, and it also affects white Americans, as in the 150,000-plus members of the middle-aged white working class who kill themselves each year with drugs, alcohol or self-slaughter.

But in fact, as Floyd's friend Aubrey Rhodes acknowledges, living in Minneapolis is not what killed him. Breonna Taylor did not live in Minneapolis. Nor did Rayshard Brooks or Freddie Gray or Walter Scott. Nor did Eric Garner, whose last words pre-saged Floyd's desperate pleas of "I can't breathe."

Journalists know that sometimes the most effective means of telling a big story is to tell a little story. Floyd lived a life that was anything but little, except when compared to the national tapestry of Black lives lost in confrontations with law enforcement. He was a lone person whose life ended in a way that casts light on a tragedy that is national in scope.

This extraordinary piece should be required reading for all who serve in Minnesota government, for those in public safety,

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



We need a family matters movement for the preservation of our society.

When Trump was looking for a monster costume, he probably had a hard time finding one. What bureaucrats and not a few congressional Democrats have done the past four years has been to commit just about every illicit trick in the book to get rid of a duly-elected president. We need a Congress that respects the rule of law, won't pack the Supreme Court, among other contemplated outrages, and news outlets that stop putting bias before facts. Remember The New York Times doing a history project on America as a slave state saying that the Revolutionary War was fought to preserve slavery when there is absolutely no evidence of any such thing according to a top historian on the subject? The content is scheduled to be taught in public schools.

This can be a happy new year only if we resolve as much.

and for those who will contend for elective office in Minneapolis this fall. Like other major U.S. cities, Minneapolis is in the grip of a complex and stubborn problem. It demands responses more nuanced, and more substantive, than reflexive calls to defund the police.

To read "George Floyd's search for salvation" is to come to know Floyd as a man who was working to improve his life, who had a deep faith in the God of his understanding, and who should be alive today, contributing to society as a citizen and a friend.

Maybe feeling the pain of it offers us the best chance to move forward.






GEORGE

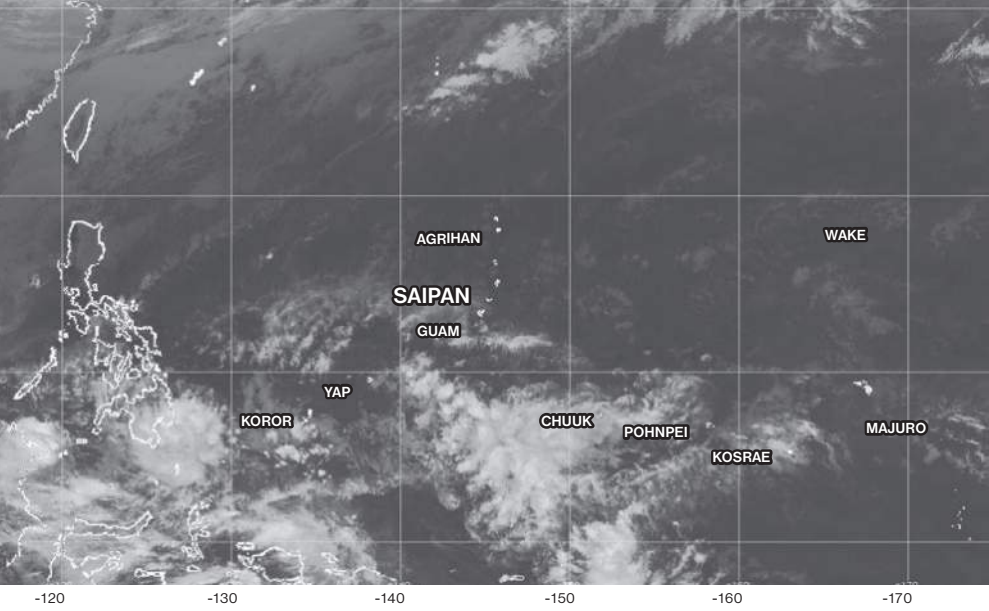
From Page 8

months or years of sobriety people have—no matter how far along the road they have come—they are always the same distance from the ditch.

Minneapolis is known as a place that is enlightened about recovery. Rao's profile portrays the city as the hope-filled end of a pipeline that begins in Houston. "If I stay down here," their story quotes Floyd as saying, "I'm going to die." It is painful to contemplate the possibility that, had he stayed in Houston, he might be alive today.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:12 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show dry conditions across the Marianas with only a few clouds present. A few more clouds and showers are seen farther east near 150E. Buoys and altimetry show seas between 8 and 10 feet across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:33 AM	12:45 PM	-
Friday	1:30 AM	1:30 PM	-
Saturday	2:28 AM	2:17 PM	-
Sunday	3:29 AM	3:09 PM	-
Monday	4:32 AM	4:05 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	76° / 65°	
Beijing	Sunny	22° / 8°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	61° / 44°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	38° / 30°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	75° / 68°	
New York	Sunny	46° / 27°	
Osaka	Showers	43° / 30°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	39° / 32°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy/Wind	26° / 13°	
Rome	Showers	51° / 41°	
Salem	Rain	52° / 40°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	57° / 49°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	13° / -2°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 31°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	44° / 29°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:27 AM	High Tide	1.23	
7:33 AM	Low Tide	0.39	
2:11 PM	High Tide	1.79	
9:19 PM	Low Tide	0.25	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business



BEA CABRERA
Husband-and-wife team and owners of Mariana Nails Shawn and Kelly Jackson.

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Located along Middle Road, Mariana Nails will surely catch your attention with their bright neon sign. Once inside, there's nothing else to do but to relax with the pleasant sight of their interiors—white clean walls mixed with pastel colored ornaments that will simply make you sit down and surrender your nails for that much needed pampering.

Debunking that self-care in nail salons are only for women, Mariana Nails opened on New Year's day and they welcome men too. "We offer manicure-regular and gel polish, also acrylic. One of our specialties is that we offer premiere pedicure spa in our pedicure massage chairs where we take care of the client's feet, soften calluses, get heels buffed especially for men that have rough heels and because of this, we have Gentleman's Pedi and Gentleman's Bubble Scrub services waiting for them," said manager Kelly Jackson.

"I know that men do not usually take care of their feet as well as women and it is also not usual for men to pamper themselves but here at Mariana Nails, we have services both for men and women using a four-step process using 'Be Care Love' high quality organic products that includes salt scrub, mask and a special lotion... What it really does is it opens up pores in the feet

Mariana Nails: A salon also for men

and makes it easy for men and women to buff up the bottom of their feet," Jackson added.

Jackson has had intensive experience in nail and spa services and aside from manicure and spa pedicure, Mariana Nails also offer eyelash extensions, waxing, and facial. "We get our products from the mainland, Vietnam and, China... We have four pedicure chairs and four manicure chairs with fiber glass in the middle to comply with COVID health and safety regulations... for privacy, we have

rooms for services like eyelash extensions, waxing and facial," Jackson said.

"It took a lot of risk as this was a goal pre-pandemic. Although the pandemic did throw us a lot but it did not deter us. Basically, what we did is to focus on our prices to make sure that our services are reasonably priced and we didn't want to make our prices high that would upset people...so this way, people are more inclined to come in and still be able to pamper and enjoy themselves," Jackson added.



Mariana Nails' specialties is their premiere spa pedicure available for men and women.

BEA CABRERA



Mariana Nails is located along Middle Road beside MGA Trading.

BEA CABRERA

According to Jackson, self-care is important in life. "It's a vice that people kind of lean toward to make them feel better. Some people go to have fun outdoors like the beach, do athletic activities and some people looks at the mirror and see something that they can improve on like a facial or manicure for their hands and nails. This makes one feel more pampered and when you take care of yourself, you show your beauty to other people and they will see it," she said.

"The reason why we named

the shop Mariana Nails is that we want to cater to the whole Marianas...Mariana Nails represents not just Saipan but the whole CNMI with the hope of hopefully franchising out to Tinian or Rota in the future. I've worked with a lot of people from Rota and Tinian and many of them come to Saipan for self-care needs and at Mariana Nails, everyone is

always welcome," she added.

Mariana Nails is located along Middle Road beside MGA Trading. They are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm and Sundays from 11am to 5pm. For more information, call (670) 234-8088 email: cnminails@outlook.com or look them up on Facebook or Instagram just type "cnminails."

Some taxpayers find relief payments sent to wrong account

A number of taxpayers who use tax preparation services, such as H&R Block and TurboTax, say their second relief payments were sent to the incorrect bank account, forcing them to wait longer for their money.

The IRS and the Treasury Department began issuing the Economic Impact Payments last week. The payment is

\$600 for each eligible adult and dependent for people earning up to \$75,000, or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly. Those earning more than that are eligible for a reduced payment.

The IRS said that direct deposit payments would take several days to post to individual accounts but funds

were largely available on Monday. Some payments are also being sent via paper check or debit cards during the month of January.

Taxpayers can use the Get My Payment tool on the IRS website to find out about the status of their payment.

However, many people said that they checked the IRS

site and found their payments were sent to an account they did not recognize.

Samantha Smith of Dallas said she received her \$1,200 relief payment in the spring via direct deposit without any issues. But her payment for this round of economic relief went to an account she did not recognize.

She contacted TurboTax, which prepared her most recent tax filing, and was told if she paid her tax preparation fees with her refund due, rather than paying for it upfront, then the second payment may have been sent to a TurboTax bank. Several other taxpayers who paid their fees the same way also reported delays. (AP)

Trump widens US ban on Chinese apps as his term nears end

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning transactions with eight Chinese apps including Alipay and WeChat Pay in an escalation of a trade war that has been unfolding through most of his term.

The order, however, goes into effect in 45 days, nearly a month after Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the next presi-

dent, so the fate of Trump's action is unclear.

The orders follow two others Trump signed in August banning dealings with the popular video app TikTok as well as the main WeChat messaging app. The fate of those apps in the U.S. is still unclear, and with just 15 days left until Inauguration Day, it will likely fall to Biden to deal with them

— or not. The same goes for Tuesday's executive order.

A representative for Biden's office did not immediately return a message for comment Tuesday.

Alipay is a widely used digital wallet that is part of the empire of e-commerce billionaire and Ant Group founder Jack Ma. WeChat Pay is a rival service oper-

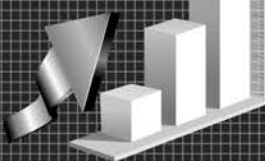
ated by tech giant Tencent. The others named in the order are CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, Vmate and WPS Office.

Trump's order cites unspecified concerns about the apps collecting Americans' personal and financial information and turning it over to China's communist government.

The order marks the Trump

administration's latest attempt to hobble China, a rising economic superpower. Over the past several years, it has lashed out at China with tariffs that have sometimes roiled the U.S. stock market, blocked mergers involving Chinese companies and stifled the business of Chinese firms like Huawei, a maker of phones and telecom equipment. (AP)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

30,391.60
+167.71
0.55%

S&P

3,726.86
+26.21
0.71%

NASDAQ

12,818.96
+120.51
0.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2857
British Pound	0.7339
Canadian Dollar	1.2661
Chinese Yuan	6.3489
Euro	0.8130

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7529
Indian Rupee	72.7894
Japanese Yen	102.7600
Malaysian Ringgit	3.9771
New Zealand Dollar	1.3755
Philippine Peso	47.2285

Russian Ruble	72.8847
Singapore Dollar	1.3171
South Korean Won	1067.04
Swiss Franc	0.8780
Taiwan Dollar	27.5865
Thailand Baht	29.8930

Nation

No charges against Wisconsin officer who shot Jacob Blake

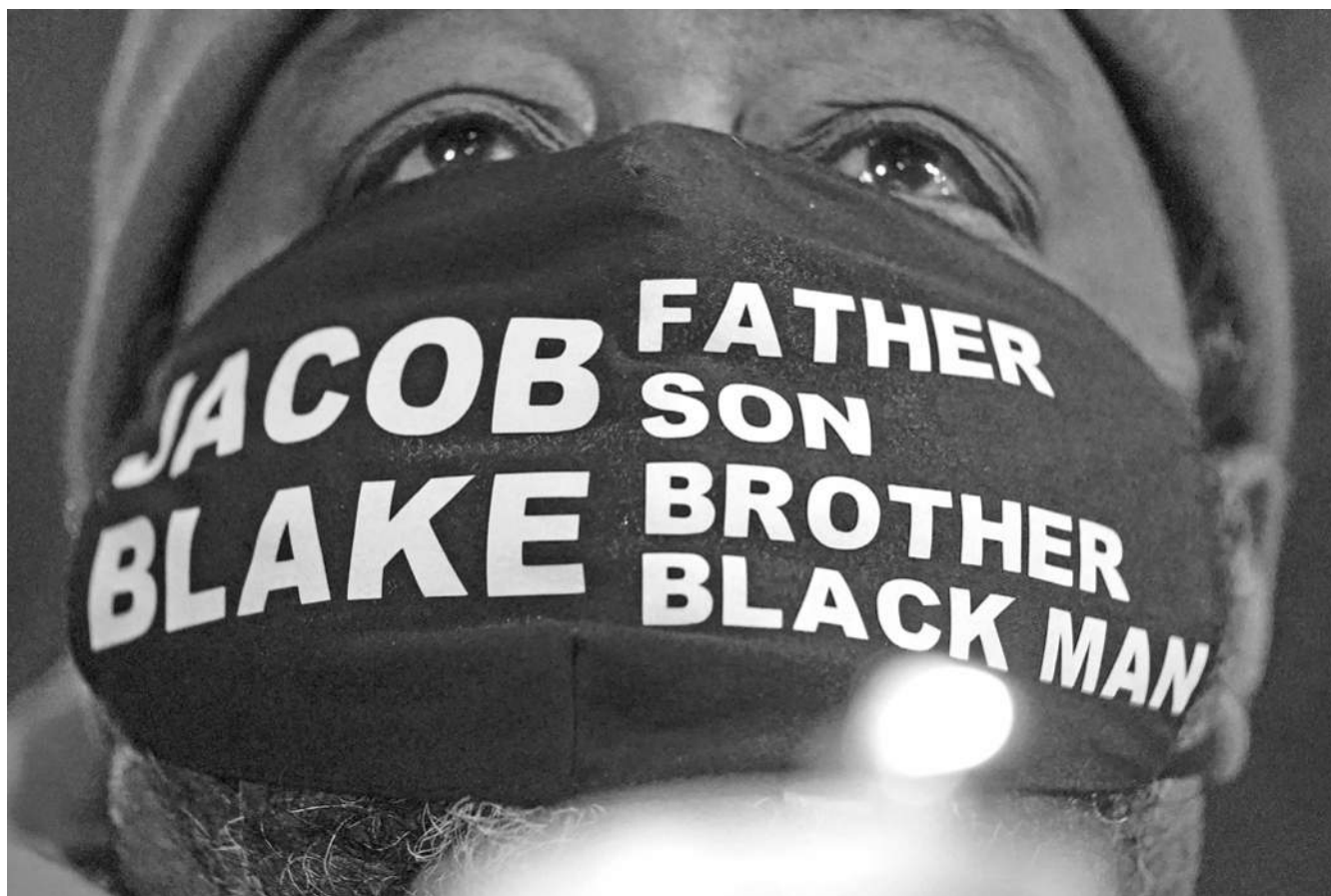
KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin prosecutor declined Tuesday to file charges against a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back in Kenosha, concluding he couldn't disprove the officer's contention that he acted in self-defense because he feared the man would stab him.

The decision, met with swift criticism from civil rights advocates and some public officials, threatened to reignite protests that rocked the city after the Aug. 23 shooting that left Jacob Blake paralyzed. Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, called the decision "further evidence that our work is not done" and called for people to work together for equity. Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is Black, was more pointed on Twitter: "I wish I could say that I'm shocked. It's another instance in a string of misapplications of justice."

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley said investigators concluded Blake was carrying a knife when police responded to a report he was trying to steal a car. Officer Rusten Sheskey said he "feared Jacob Blake was going to stab him with the knife" as he tried to stop Blake from fleeing the scene.

"I do not believe the state ... would be able to prove that the privilege of self-defense is not available," Graveley said.

The shooting of Blake, captured on bystander video,



AP
Jacob Blake Sr., father of Jacob Blake, holds a candle at a rally Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, in Kenosha, Wis.

said the Department of Justice will make its own charging decision.

The Blake shooting happened three months after George Floyd died while being restrained by police officers in Minneapolis, a death that was captured on bystander video and sparked outrage and protests that spread across the United States and beyond. The galvanized Black Lives Matter movement put a spotlight on inequitable policing and became a fault line in politics, with President Donald Trump criticizing protesters and aggressively pressing a law-and-order message that he sought to capitalize on in Wisconsin and other swing states.

Kenosha, a city of 100,000 on the Wisconsin-Illinois border about 60 miles north of Chicago, braced for renewed protests ahead of the charges, with concrete barricades and metal fencing surrounding the county courthouse, plywood protecting many businesses and the mayor granted power to impose curfews. Evers activated 500 National Guard troops to assist.

turned the nation's spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism. More than 250 people were arrested during protests in the days that followed, including then-17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse, a self-styled medic with an assault rifle who is charged in the fatal shootings of two men and the wounding of a third.

Blake family members expressed anger about the charging decision.

"This is going to impact this city and this state and this nation for many years to come," Justin Blake, an uncle, said. "Unless the people rise up and do what they're supposed to do. This is a government for the people by the people, correct? We talk about this constitution everybody's supposed to be so committed to, and yet we stand in the state that has the most convictions of African Americans in the United States. So they're weighing

heavy on one side of justice, but they're allowing police officers to rain down terror on our communities. It's unjust."

Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake's family, said in a statement the decision "further destroys trust in our justice system" and said he would proceed with a lawsuit. In a later tweet, he questioned

whether Blake threatened Sheskey with a knife, saying "nowhere does the video footage show a knife extended and aimed to establish the requisite intent."

A federal civil rights investigation into Blake's shooting is still underway. Matthew Krueger, the U.S. attorney for Wisconsin's Eastern District,

US: Hack of federal agencies 'likely Russian in origin'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top national security agencies confirmed Tuesday that Russia was likely responsible for a massive hack of U.S. government departments and corporations, rejecting President Donald Trump's claim that China might be to blame.

The rare joint statement represented the U.S. government's first formal attempt to assign responsibility for the breaches at multiple agencies and to assign a possible motive for the operation. It said the hacks appeared to be intended for "intelligence gathering," suggesting the evidence so far pointed to a Russian spying effort rather than an attempt to damage or disrupt U.S. government operations.

The agencies made clear the Russian operation was "ongoing" and indicated the hunt for threats was not over.

"This is a serious compromise that will require a sustained and dedicated effort to remediate," said the statement, distributed by the FBI, the National Security Agency, the

Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

It was not clear why the statement was issued Tuesday, especially since government officials and cybersecurity experts have for weeks believed that Russia was responsible. Even so, the announcement puts the imprimatur of national security agencies, albeit belatedly, on information that members of Congress had clamored for the White House to make public.

The Associated Press reported last month that officials at the White House had been prepared to issue a statement that accused Russia of being the main actor in the hack but were told at the last minute to stand down. The day of that report, Dec. 19, Trump tweeted that the "Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality" and suggested without any evidence that China could be to blame.

Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic vice chairman of

the Senate Intelligence Committee, lamented the belated statement, saying "it's unfortunate that it has taken over three weeks after the revelation of an intrusion this significant for this Administration to finally issue a tentative attribution." He said he hoped "that we will begin to see something more definitive" as well as a warning to Russia, which has denied involvement in the hack.

With the public finger-pointing taking place in the final two weeks of the Trump administration, it will almost certainly fall to incoming President Joe Biden to decide how to respond to a hacking campaign that amounts to Washington's worst cyberespionage failure to date. Biden has said his administration will impose "substantial costs" on countries responsible for U.S. government hacks, but it is unclear whether the response in this case will involve sanctions, prosecution, offensive cyber operations or some combination of those options.

Hundreds of Trump supporters flock to DC ahead of vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hundreds of supporters of President Donald Trump descended on the nation's capital Tuesday to cheer his baseless claims of election fraud a day before a congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden's victory.

Just blocks from the White House, protesters—many without masks—gathered in Freedom Plaza to decry the vote in the Electoral College. As temperatures dropped to the low 40s and a steady rain swept onto the streets, hundreds remained in the plaza into nightfall.

"I'm just here to support the president," said David Wideman, a 45-year-old firefighter who traveled from Memphis, Tennessee.

Wideman acknowledged he was "confused" by a string of losses from the president's legal team in their attempt to overturn the results of the election and didn't know what options Trump had left.

"I not sure what he can do at this point, but I want to hear what he has to say," Wideman said.

Trump tweeted his support

for the protesters: "Washington is being inundated with people who don't want to see an election victory stolen by emboldened Radical Left Democrats. Our Country has had enough, they won't take it anymore! We hear you (and love you) from the Oval Office. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

The speakers included former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, whom the president pardoned after he was twice convicted of lying to the FBI in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

"We stand at a crucible moment in United States history," Flynn told the mostly maskless crowd. "This country is awake now."

The president was expected to personally address his supporters in Washington on Wednesday during a rally on the Ellipse, just south of the White House. The protests coincide with Wednesday's congressional vote expected to certify the Electoral College results, which Trump continues to dispute.

In a Tuesday evening

tweet, Trump called on Democrats and fellow Republicans to look at the "thousands of people pouring into D.C." In another tweet, he warned that antifa, the umbrella term for leftist militant groups that Trump has said he wants to declare a terrorist organization, should stay out of Washington.

The rallies had local officials and law enforcement bracing for potential violent street clashes. Many businesses in downtown Washington boarded up their windows, fearful that the protest could devolve into the unrest seen in May and June when dozens of businesses were vandalized.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser called in National Guard troops to help bolster the city's police force. She urged residents to stay away from downtown Washington and to avoid confrontations with anyone who is "looking for a fight." But, she warned, "we will not allow people to incite violence, intimidate our residents or cause destruction in our city."

World

Germany extends lockdown until Jan 31 and toughens curbs

BERLIN (AP)—The German government said Tuesday it is extending the country's lockdown by three weeks until Jan. 31, tightening curbs on social contacts and planning limits on people's movements in the worst-affected regions as it tries to reduce stubbornly high infection figures and worrying numbers of coronavirus-related deaths.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was "absolutely necessary" to maintain restrictions,

particularly in light of a more infectious variant of the virus that emerged in England.

"We must reach a point where we can once again follow the chains of infection," Merkel said after a lengthy videoconference with Germany's 16 state governors. "Otherwise, we will just go keep going back into a lockdown after a short relaxation."

The chancellor said that restrictions on social contacts will be tightened. People

will be allowed to meet only one person outside their own household.

In a new move, authorities across Germany will allow people in areas with more than 200 new infections per 100,000 residents over seven days to travel only 15 kilometers (just over nine miles) from their hometown unless they have a good reason to go further.

"In particular, day trips are not a good reason," Merkel

said. She pointed to a string of recent incidents in which day-trippers hoping to ski or sled have overrun winter resorts even though lifts and other facilities are closed.

Merkel and the governors plan to confer again Jan. 25 on what happens after the end of the month.

Germany launched a nationwide partial shutdown on Nov. 2, closing restaurants, bars, leisure and sports facilities. That failed to reduce infections, and the current lockdown -- which also closed nonessential shops and schools -- took effect Dec. 16. It was initially due to run through Jan. 10.

Authorities say Germany's reported numbers for COVID-19 cases are distorted by lower testing and delayed reporting over the Christmas and New Year's period. The country's disease control center says it expects to have a reliable picture of what is going on only from Jan. 17, Merkel said.

But even according to the current figures, Germany is far from its declared aim of getting new confirmed cases below 50 per 100,000 resi-

dents over seven days—the maximum level at which officials say contact-tracing can work properly.

On Tuesday, the infection rate stood at 134.7 per 100,000 nationwide, and 944 more deaths were reported to authorities in 24 hours, one of the highest daily death tolls yet in a country that had a relatively low COVID-19 mortality rate during the pandemic's first phase.

Merkel said the emergence of the new variant in England is "one reason more" to keep up restrictions. A few cases of the variant have been detected in Germany.

The chancellor defended Germany's approach to vaccinations following criticism fueled by perceptions that Europe has made a slow start and that the European Union was too hesitant in ordering the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine, the only one so far cleared for use in the 27-nation bloc.

Germany had vaccinated nearly 317,000 people by Tuesday, just over a week into the campaign. That's a better showing than in several other EU countries, but critics have

pointed to faster progress in the U.K., the United States and Israel.

Merkel said it was "right and important" for the EU rather than individual countries to order vaccines for the whole bloc. She said that it "is in Germany's interests" since the country is surrounded by other EU member nations and in the middle of the EU trade zone that relies on open borders.

"A high number of vaccinated people in Germany combined with many who aren't vaccinated in our neighborhood won't be good for Germany," she said. "So we don't want national solo efforts. We think the most effective health protection for us can be attained through a common European procedure."

Health Minister Jens Spahn, who has faced criticism from inside Germany's governing coalition, has repeatedly said that vaccinations are progressing as expected and that the slow start is because teams are first going to nursing homes to vaccinate the most vulnerable. Merkel said she thinks Spahn is doing "a great job."

Thailand scrambles to contain outbreak, secure vaccines

BANGKOK (AP)—For much of 2020, Thailand had the coronavirus under control. After a strict nationwide lockdown in April and May, the number of new local infections dropped to zero, where they remained for the next six months.

Thailand closed its borders, enforcing mandatory quarantines for its own citizens and the handful of foreigners allowed to visit. But aside from a few outward signs of the "new normal," like the ubiquitous wearing of masks and reminders to practice social distancing, life resumed as though the pandemic had largely run its course.

A new outbreak discovered in mid-December threatens to put the country back where it was in the toughest days of early 2020, when it tallied 3,045 cases and 59 deaths. Thailand's COVID-19 coordinating center has warned that the number of new daily cases could rise to more than 10,000 by later this month under a worst-case scenario if the gov-

ernment does not do more to curtail the virus's spread.

The outbreak identified in mid-December was centered in a seafood market in Samut Sakhon, southwest of the capital Bangkok, that employs thousands of Myanmar migrant workers. It has now spread to 56 of Thailand's 77 provinces.

On Tuesday, the country reported 527 new cases, most of them migrant workers linked to the market in Samut Sakhon. A day earlier, Thailand counted 745 new cases, an all-time high since the pandemic was first found in the country last January.

Thailand now has 8,966 total confirmed cases with 65 deaths.

Complicating its path to recovery, Thailand is playing catch-up in its bid to secure vaccines. Despite being a production hub for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the government has yet to secure enough doses to cover its population of nearly 70 million people.

Thailand signed a joint-

venture agreement with AstraZeneca in October to produce up to 200 million doses of the vaccine in the country but only has been able to secure 26 million doses for itself. Thailand expects those vaccines, which will be produced locally by Siam Bioscience, to be delivered in June.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Monday that Thailand is trying to obtain 63 million doses, enough to cover slightly less than half of its population. The cabinet on Tuesday approved a \$39 million budget for the vaccines, which will be offered at no charge to Thai citizens.

Meanwhile, China's Sinovac Biotech is expected to provide Thailand with 2 million vaccine doses, with an initial batch of 200,000 set to arrive in February, and later shipments expected in March and April.

"I hope they arrive soon. There are so many cases right now it's terrifying," said Wattee Kongsilp, a street fruit seller in Bangkok.

Venezuela's socialists take control of once-defiant congress

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Parading giant portraits of Hugo Chavez and independence hero Simon Bolivar, allies of President Nicolas Maduro retook control of Venezuela's congress Tuesday, the last institution in the country it didn't already control.

The symbolic restoring of the images to Venezuela's parliament capped a celebratory day for the ruling socialist party in which they claimed to have avenged the humiliating defeat five years ago when government opponents won control of the legislature and proceeded to remove portraits of the two national icons in a fierce—if futile—challenge to Maduro's lock on power.

Jorge Rodriguez, the incoming assembly president, vowed to "exorcise" from the legislative palace all vestiges of its previous occupants, who he accused of plotting from its neo-classical chamber Maduro's

violent overthrow with the help of foreign mercenaries and the Trump administration.

"Just so there are no doubts, pretty soon we'll spray every corner of the parliamentary chambers with holy water," joked Rodriguez, who was previously led internationally sponsored talks with the opposition as well as met with envoys from the Trump administration.

Maduro's allies swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the U.S., the European Union and several other foreign governments. While the vote was marred by anemically low turnout, it nonetheless seemed to relegate into irrelevancy the U.S.-backed opposition led by lawmaker Juan Guaidó.

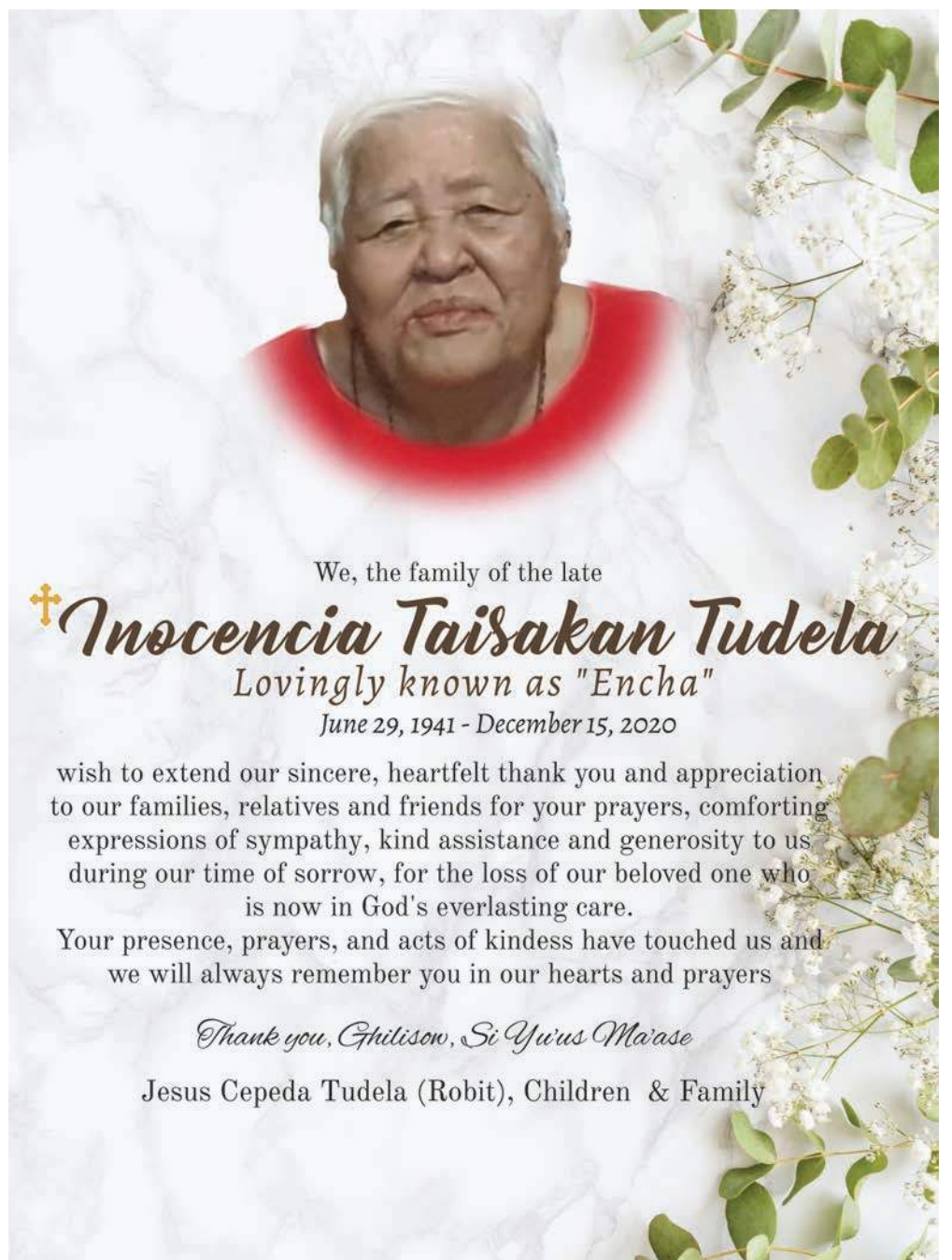
Exactly a year ago, Guaidó, in a blue suit and tie, tried to scale a spiked iron fence to get past riot police blocking

him from attending the parliament's inaugural session, which according to the constitution must be held every year on Jan. 5.

A far cry from that electric display of defiance, Guaidó held his own virtual parliamentary session Tuesday, via Zoom, with a cohort of opposition leaders.

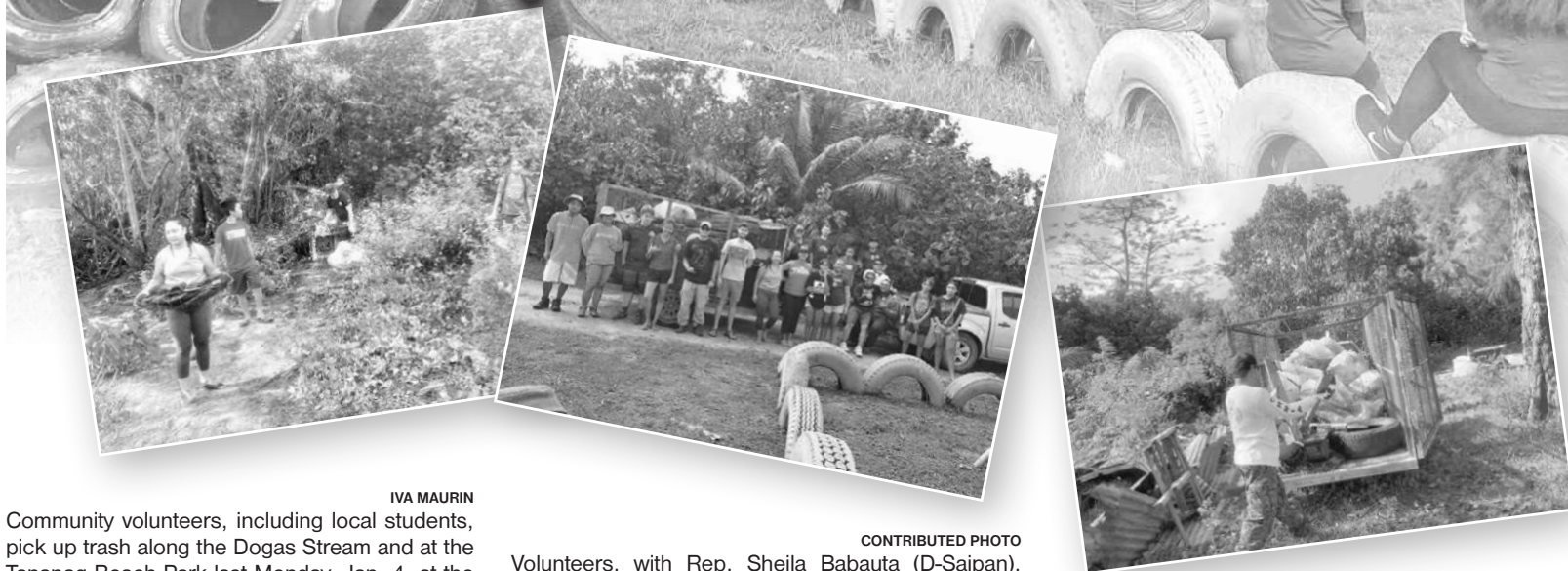
"They are trying to annihilate Venezuela's democratic force," Guaidó said in his online address, which was overshadowed by the government's celebratory session in the legislature downtown. "But we aren't going to give up."

Last month, anti-Maduro lawmakers, several dozen of them from exile, also gathered online to vote to extend their mandate stemming from a landslide victory in 2015 for another 12 months, operating through an adjunct committee normally reserved for legislative recesses.



Environment

The Tanapag Beach Cleanup



IVA MAURIN

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) and Coastal Resources Management watershed coordinator Zachary Williams briefing some student volunteers about the area and the importance of keeping it clean, prior to the cleanup. The group was able to collect 2,120 lbs of trash in the less than three hours of cleanup held last Monday, at the Dogas Stream/Tanapag Beach Park, at the Beach Cleanup jointly organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Office of Rep. Sheila Babauta, with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

IVA MAURIN

Community volunteers, including local students, pick up trash along the Dogas Stream and at the Tanapag Beach Park last Monday, Jan. 4, at the Beach Cleanup jointly organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Office of Rep. Sheila Babauta, with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers, with Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), and staff of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Cleanup and the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, gamely posing in front of the truck filled with some of the collected trash. The group was able to collect 2,120 lbs of trash in the less than three hours of cleanup held last Monday, at the Dogas Stream/Tanapag Beach Park.

IVA MAURIN

A ton of wastes, 2,120 lbs of trash to be exact, were collected by the volunteers in less than three hours at the Dogas Stream/Tanapag Beach Park area, which were then hauled to the Transfer Station nearby shortly after the cleanup.

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is kicking off the year “clean and right” with community volunteers coming together to pick up trash, to rid the islands off of pollution that harm not just the environment, but all of us that depend on it.

In less than three hours, literally a ton of trash was collected and picked up by the volunteers, mostly local students, last Monday, Jan. 4, in Tanapag, at a beach and stream cleanup jointly organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Office of Rep. Sheila Babauta, with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

Hauled, from the Tanapag Beach Park to the Dogas Stream area, were varying types of trash, mostly heavy rusty tin roofs and electric fan guards, sinks, and refrigerator parts. This, according to some volunteers, is very disappointing considering that the transfer station is only a few blocks away.

“The Dogas Stream is an important ecosystem that we must continue to raise awareness for and encourage our community to protect. The Tanapag Beach Park is a place we all enjoy as a community. We want to keep these places

clean for our community and for future generations,” Babauta (D-Saipan) said.

The legislator represents the district where the cleanup was held.

Not a dumpsite

Babauta shared that she has received numerous complaints of an abandoned boat on the area that is being used as a dumping site.

“The community members who come to me are concerned about the impact it has on our environment, especially with it being so close to the beach. The illegal dumping ground isn’t just unsightly and unsafe, it threatens the health of our marine life.”

She also pointed out that the area, if not maintained, could endanger wildlife and cause harm to everyone. “Our community members frequent these areas to fish and spend time with their family and friends. We must remember that we’re all connected. If the fish eat plastics, we eat plastics (because we eat the fish).”

While there have been beach cleanups on island, most tend to be more on popular tourist beaches, and the Dogas Stream, Tanapag area,

do not get as much attention. It is important to note, however, that “prevention is always better than cure” – meaning, it is better to not dump trash just about everywhere, than to pick them up after.

“I want our community to remember how beautiful our island is and to cherish that memory for our children and future generations. I’m so grateful to our community members who make the effort to pick up trash, take trash home, and to properly dispose of waste. We must take responsibility for our impact, be considerate of others, and have respect for our home.”

Babauta also expressed appreciation to all who make the effort to keep our CNMI beautiful, and asked everyone who are having issues with waste disposal to reach out to the legislators.

“Come to us, your leaders. Come to us with your issues—and your solutions. This is a collective effort.”

Important estuary

The Dogas Stream is among the largest and most consistent estuary ecosystems on island, and

perhaps, the most northern mangrove habitat, where fish sightings have been documented.

According to Division of Coastal Resources Management Watershed coordinator Zachary Williams, estuaries are very productive biodiversity ecosystems which serves as an important nesting habitat, or home to some species.

“It’s really important that we keep that area clean,” Williams said. “Mangrove and estuary habitats serve as important habitat for native species and fishery species too. We’ve documented things like trevally, emperors, and mullets, all using that habitat. It’s important for our biodiversity, but also for our fisheries, our subsistence, our economy.”

“It’s used by a lot of our fishes here—juvenile trevally, emperors, mullets, [along with] some other native stream or brackish species like flag-tail (fish), native shrimps and crabs, and birds. It’s great habitat for the white eye, fantail, fruit dove, and white-throated ground dove.”

An estuary, he explained, is where a river or stream meets a larger body of water, in the

CNMI’s case, the ocean. It is where the freshwater of the stream mixes with the saltwater of the ocean, and creates a brackish water – a mixed water environment that is a unique interface of the land and sea.

“It’s so easy to pollute the water there. Since it’s where it’s the end of the stream, it’s not only when you dump garbage or waste in there you’re polluting it, but it’s also where the entire length of the stream is.”

“Eventually, all that pollution is going to pass through that one point. So it’s shouldering the entire stream’s worth of pollution, which eventually flows out to sea. Any waste that gets in there, of course, is going into the sea, the seagrass, the reef,” he added.

Williams also said that in degrading the habitat, including taking out vegetation, clearing mangroves, we are reducing its own capacity to clean the water and filter out pollutants, as well as provide habitat shoreline protection.

Invest in nature

The 2,120 lbs of trash collected by the volunteers in less than three hours at Tanapag

last Monday seems a lot especially in comparison to the over 9,000 lbs collected all over the island during the entire coastal cleanup last year.

Clearly, there needs to be an even more serious environmental protection campaign on island, and more involvement from all sectors, especially the community. Williams highlights the importance of outreach activities, such as the one held in Tanapag, to keeping the environment healthy.

“This is a great opportunity for the community, particularly the youth, to be involved in natural resource management in their community, and hopefully become more invested in maintaining, managing, and keeping their natural resources clean.”

As for those who keep dumping trash illegally, and wantonly disregarding littering laws, Williams is appealing for them to stop.

“Please stop. It’s all of our backyard. It’s beautiful habitat. It’s a beautiful island and we want to keep it clean. It’s a lot more work to pick trash up than it is to throw it out, so please, please don’t throw it out. It causes so many problems and it’s so difficult to clean. Keep Saipan clean, let’s have a plastic-free Marianas.”

For more information about waste management, or to volunteer in the community cleanups, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1.

» Starting the year clean and right!

Life & Style

Dr. Dre recovering well after being admitted into hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Dre says he will be “back home soon” after the music mogul received medical treatment at a Los Angeles hospital for a reported brain aneurysm.

The rapper and producer said in a social media post Tuesday night that he’s thank-



Dr. Dre

ful for the “well wishes.” TMZ reported that he suffered a brain aneurysm Monday and was recovering at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

“I’m doing great and getting excellent care from my medical team,” he said. “I will be out of the hospital and back home

soon. Shout out to all the great medical professionals at Cedars. One Love!!”

His representative has not immediately responded to an email.

Several music artists and athletes paid tribute to Dre on social media on Tuesday. Ice Cube, Snoop Dogg and LeBron James offered prayers toward Dre’s recovery.

Dre, whose real name is

Andre Young, has produced hits for Tupac, Snoop Dogg, Eminem and more. He’s won six Grammys.

Born in the Southern California city of Compton, he broke out on the music scene as a co-founding member

of N.W.A., producing the group’s groundbreaking 1988 debut album, “Straight Outta Compton.”

Dre produced his own hits and multiplatinum albums, along with crafting music for many others in-

cluding Kendrick Lamar, 50 Cent, Jay-Z, Nas, Busta Rhymes, the Game and Anderson .Paak. He also found success outside of the rap genre, producing pop hits for Gwen Stefani and Mary J. Blige.

Grammy Awards shift to March due to pandemic conditions

NEW YORK (AP)—The 2021 Grammy Awards will no longer take place this month in Los Angeles and will broadcast in March due to a recent surge in coronavirus cases and deaths.

The annual show would shift from its original Jan. 31 broadcast to March 14, according to a joint statement released Tuesday from the Recording Academy and CBS, which broadcasts the ceremony. The statement said the decision was reached “after thoughtful conversations with health experts, our host and artists scheduled to appear.”

“The deteriorating COVID situation in Los Angeles, with hospital services being overwhelmed, ICUs having reached capacity, and new guidance from state and local governments have all led us to conclude that postponing our show was the right thing to do. Nothing is more important than the health and safety of those in our music community and the hundreds of people who work tirelessly on producing the show,” read the statement from Recording Academy interim CEO Harvey Mason Jr., CBS executive Jack Sussman and Grammys executive produc-

er Ben Winston.

“We want to thank all of the talented artists, the staff, our vendors and especially this year’s nominees for their understanding, patience and willingness to work with us as we navigate these unprecedented times.”

The Grammys will be held in Los Angeles at the Staples Center. Los Angeles County, the epicenter of the crisis in California, has surpassed 11,000 COVID-19 deaths and has had 40% of the deaths in California. It is the third state to reach the 25,000 death count.

Khashoggi doc, too explosive for streaming, debuts on-demand

NEW YORK (AP)—Even before “The Dissident” made its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, director Bryan Fogel had a sense that his explosive Jamal Khashoggi documentary was going to be a tough sell.

The film, available on-demand this week, was one of the most anticipated of last January’s Sundance. Fogel’s previous film, “Icarus,” about Russian doping in the Olympics, won the Academy

Award for best documentary. “The Dissident” features audio recordings of Khashoggi’s murder, the participation of Khashoggi’s fiancé, Hatice Cengiz, and details on Saudi hacking efforts, including the infiltration of the cellphone of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The audience at Sundance included Hillary Clinton, Alec Baldwin and Reed Hastings, the Netflix chief executive.

At the screening, Fogel im-

plored media companies not to be scared off. “In my dream of dreams, distributors will stand up to Saudi Arabia,” he said. Riding in an SUV to the film’s Sundance after-party, an upbeat Fogel said he was hopeful that Netflix, Amazon, HBO or others would step forward—anyone that could give the film a global platform for Khashoggi’s story, which plays as a lethal, real-life geopolitical thriller in “The Dissident.”

Tanya Roberts, Bond girl and ‘Sheena’ star, dead at 65

NEW YORK (AP)—Tanya Roberts, who captivated James Bond in “A View to a Kill” and appeared in the sitcom “That ’70s Show,” has died, several hours after she was mistakenly declared dead by her publicist and her partner. She was 65.

Lance O’Brien, her companion of nearly two decades, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Cedars-Sinai

Medical Center reached out to him on Monday at 9:30 p.m. PST to inform him that Roberts had passed away.

“She was my soulmate, she was my best friend. We haven’t been apart for two days” in their years together, a tearful O’Brien said.

Roberts’ death was related to a urinary tract infection, publicist Mike Pingel said. He had been at the hospi-

tal Tuesday morning with O’Brien to pick up Roberts’ personal effects.

Roberts collapsed at home on Dec. 24 after walking her dogs and was admitted to Cedars-Sinai. She had been reported dead on Sunday, but Pingel said that was based on a mistake by O’Brien, who believed Roberts had slipped away during what was expected to be a final visit.



FILE - Tanya Roberts stars as Kiri in the adventure movie “The Beastmaster,” on Dec. 16, 1981. Roberts, who captivated James Bond in “A View to a Kill” and appeared in the sitcom “That ’70s Show,” died Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, several hours after she was mistakenly declared dead by her publicist and her partner. Roberts’ partner Lance O’Brien confirmed her death Tuesday after picking up her personal effects at a Los Angeles hospital. She was 65.

AP PHOTO/WALLY FONG, FILE

Mom is pressured to teach native language to daughter

DEAR ABBY: I came to this country 30 years ago, at 16. My parents were very abusive and neglectful, so my uncle in the U.S. took me in. I have worked with therapists, and my mind is clear about my past.

I now have a 14-year-old daughter. I do not speak to her in my native language. It is not very good at expressing love and caring, and has more emphasis on strict hierarchy and obedience.

There are many things I cannot convey in my native language. One must understand the huge cultural difference between my native country and the U.S. In addition, I do not want to force my daughter to learn something because someone other than her insisted. I prefer to spend my resources helping her learn something she is interested in.

If she says she wants to learn my native language, I’ll teach her. So far, she has shown no interest. My friends criticize me for not teaching it to her. I’m bothered by their insistence that I’m robbing my daughter of the opportunity to learn it. How do I tell them it is none of their business?

READER IN HAWAII

DEAR READER: Your daughter may not have asked to learn your native language because it hasn’t occurred to her that it might one day be a valuable asset. I do think you should offer to teach it to her if she’s interested in knowing

more about the culture that shaped her mother, because her answer might surprise you.

That said, because your friends’ comments bother you, tell them that because you don’t tell them how to raise their children, you prefer they not tell you how to raise yours.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a unique problem, and if it isn’t resolved, I’m afraid my marriage is going to end in divorce. Ten years ago, at my brother-in-law’s wedding, I was left in charge of the bar. I got drunk and made a fool of myself. This included overtly flirting with one of the bridesmaids. I’m incredibly sorry about the embarrassment it caused my wife.

Fast-forward to today: My wife has accused me of inappropriate behavior and hundreds of affairs that never happened. I have been faithful to her since we started dating. She goes through my business phone and accuses me and my professional contacts of sexual behavior. I have offered to take a polygraph exam, but she continues to accuse me of infidelity. I’m at my wits’ end, and marriage counseling isn’t an option.

NOT FOOLING AROUND IN MAINE

DEAR NOT FOOLING: Marriage counseling may not be an option for you and your wife, but YOU should definitely consult a licensed psychotherapist. Something is not

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

right with your wife. Is it possible that the wedding incident so severely unbalanced her that she has never recovered?

What you have described is a miserable existence for both of you. That it has gone unresolved for a decade is tragic. Where you need to go from here I cannot decide for you, but a therapist may be able to guide you.

■■■

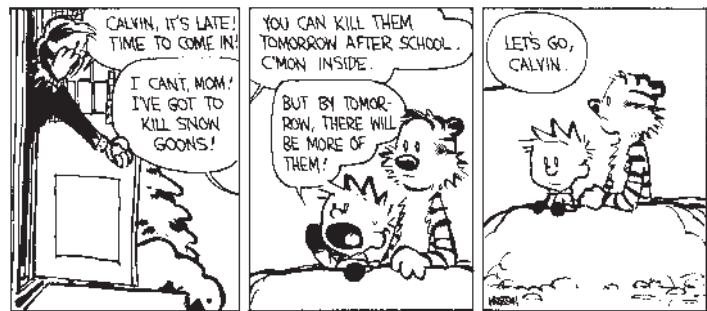
Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

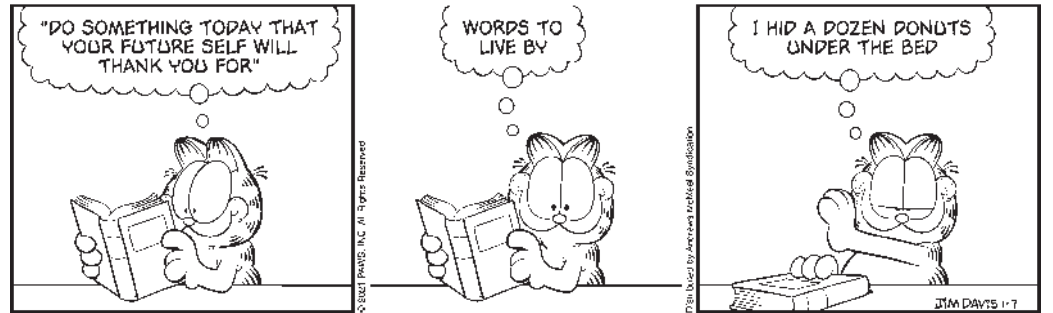
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



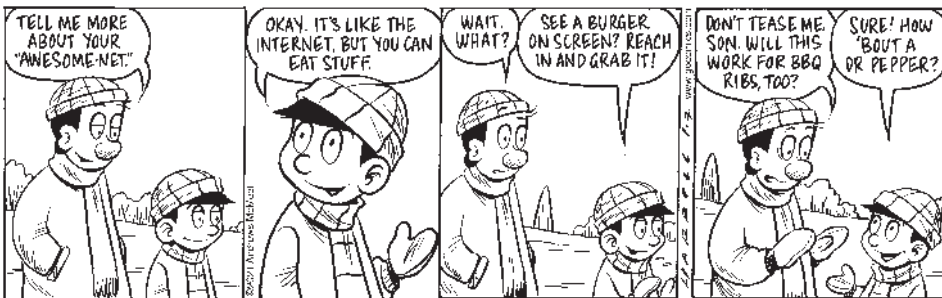
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



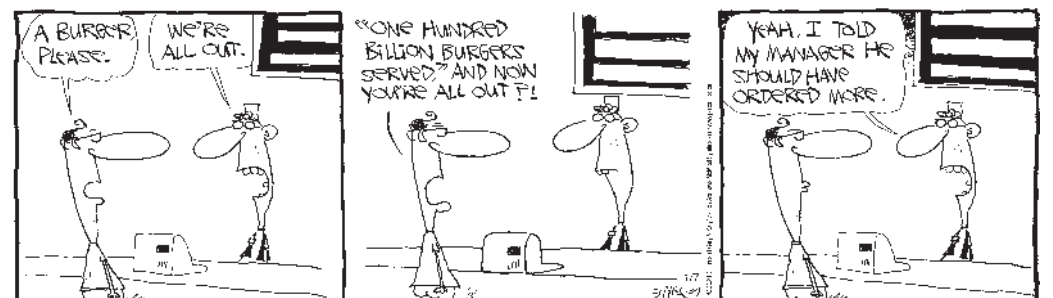
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 London mist
4 Porgy's love
8 401(k) relatives
12 Hot temper
13 Hybrid fruit
14 Alaskan seaport
15 Charitable
17 "Yeah, right"
18 Before
19 Stocking supporters
21 "Yay!"
24 Floral necklace
25 Lawyers' org.
26 Ornate vase
28 Walks nervously
32 Maintained
34 Muppet eagle
36 Easy gait
37 Incendiary crime
39 Ruin the veneer

DOWN

41 Actor Carrou
42 Poorly lit
44 Prepared potatoes
46 Bracelets
50 Sheepish remark
51 Sheltered
52 Pollen or dust, e.g.
56 Hideaway
57 Implement
58 Actress Mendes
59 Hostels
60 Evergreens
61 Badminton barrier
2 Raw rock
3 Pentagon figures
4 Department
5 Id
6 Punch
7 Twine
8 First
9 Judicial garb
10 From the U.S.
11 Collections
16 Goof up
20 Workout unit
21 "Funny!"
22 Modern taxi alternative
23 Storefront sign abbr.
27 '60s war zone
29 Lip plumper
30 Fencing sword
31 Fax
33 2020 World Series winners
35 Sailor's chart
38 Zilch
40 Defies authority
43 Substantive
45 Corn spike
46 Island near Java
47 Actor Rickman
48 German refusal
49 — gin fizz
53 Despondent
54 Night before
55 — King Cole

Solution time: 24 mins.

J	A	G	B	A	I	L	E	R	A	Y
A	V	E	U	R	S	A	R	A	G	E
C	N	E	A	D	M	A	R	I	N	A
K	N	E	A	D	T	A	P			
	B	E	E	T	E	P	I	C	S	
C	A	S	C	A	D	E	S	E	O	R
A	C	E	L	U	C	I	A	E	E	E
P	A	T	H	C	F	A	R	A	D	E
E	D	S	E	L	S	M	O	G		
	S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S	
C	M	O	N		A	C	E	L	N	I
I	C	W	A		I	D	O	S	E	S

Yesterday's answer 1-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Renner, 50; Nicolas Cage, 57; Katie Couric, 64; David Caruso, 65.

Happy Birthday: Consider what's going on around you, and be smart about the way you handle risky situations. Only make a change if it's necessary. The time to sit tight, take care of details and be diligent regarding how you deal with others is now. Uncertainty is a signal not to get involved in other people's business or personal ventures. Be safe and smart. Your numbers are 4, 13, 24, 27, 34, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Uncertainty will prevail regarding your relationship with someone who can influence your chance to advance. Diplomacy and charm will work wonders if you want to push the odds in your favor. However, using emotional manipulation will set you back. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more time and effort into meaningful relationships. Whether you are dealing with your lover, friend, relative or colleague, how you treat others will determine what you will get in return. Romance is in the stars. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful what you reveal about your personal life. Someone will be eager to use sensitive information to make you look bad. Be a good listener, ask questions and gather the data to gain an edge. Focus on a healthier lifestyle. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take more time to sort through documents. An investment, contract or medical issue will require immediate attention. Someone you have

helped will step up and return the favor. Joining forces with someone who shares your concerns will lead to success. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let what someone does bother you. Concentrate on personal improvements and getting ahead professionally. Set up virtual interviews or meetings that will allow you to present what you have to offer. Control your emotions. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep an open mind; learn from an expert. Make sure the changes you put in motion don't go over budget. Be willing to do the work yourself, and you'll save money. A romantic situation will have ulterior motives attached. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think matters through, then put together necessary changes. Make adjustments at home that encourage you to pursue something lucrative or save money. Avoid joint ventures and emotional spending. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will reveal a secret. Refuse to let your emotions take over, putting you in a vulnerable position. Listen carefully, and use insight to help navigate your way through troubled times. Take charge instead of giving someone the chance to decide for you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money matters will cause friction with a friend. Avoid getting into a joint venture with someone who talks big but offers little in return. Gather information. Proceed alone if you want to achieve positive results. Romance is featured. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional situation regarding a friend, relative or peer will leave you in a vulnerable position. Be careful how you handle your financial, health or legal matters. Someone will offer a false sense of optimism. Refrain from making an emotional decision. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional spending will leave you in a vulnerable financial position. Reconnecting with someone special will bring back a lot of memories. Granting a favor and spending more time on fitness, health and your appearance will pay off. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take control of situations quickly before someone steps in and takes over. Use your insight to tap into what's trending, and you will figure out a way to bring in more cash. An unexpected change will need your undivided attention. *****

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, curious and flexible. You are innovative and original.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7	6		1			9	5
2			7	4			8
			3	8		6	9
	9					3	
4	3		6	1			
8			1	6			2
1	2			9		8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	2	5	4	9	8	6	7	1
1	4	8	7	6	3	9	2	5
7	9	6	1	2	5	3	4	8
2	3	1	9	5	4	8	6	7
8	6	7	2	3	1	4	5	9
4	5	9	6	8	7	1	3	2
9	7	2	8	4	6	5	1	3
6	1	3	5	7	9	2	8	4
5	8	4	3	1	2	7	9	6

Difficulty Level: ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VANTY TABLES

Solution: 8 letters

G S E T D H R I A H C B M O C
L K A O O P M P H O T O F A O
A E O M E A A D L T N A L P L
S W E O L I E O R V R M O M O
S N L G B N R B A E U E W I G
D G D L R T C S Z L S Y E R N
V I N T A G E I T B R S J R O C
G S A A M M N I E L C J E O C
G E C L R A P A E E E A O R E
N D O L G U U W N W R R Y O M
I B L R R T E T G L O S S C U
R R O P Y J K Y A R T L M E F
R U O R E W A R D A S S L D R
A S T F R A M E L I G H T I E
E H S T O R A G E T T E L A P

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1/7

Beauty, Book, Brush, Calm, Candle, Chair, Cologne, Color, Comb, Cream, Crystal, Décor, Design, Drawer, Dresser, Earrings, Flower, Frame, Glam, Glass, Gloss, Home, Jars, Jewelry, Lamp, Light, Makeup, Marble, Mirror, Multipurpose, Organizer, Paint, Palette, Perfume, Photo, Pillow, Plant, Scent, Seat, Set, Stool, Storage, Store, Tall, Tray, Vase, Vintage, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Remover

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at

www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Lakers top Grizzlies, stretch streak to 4



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Anthony Davis and LeBron James each scored 26 points, rallying the Los Angeles Lakers to a 94-92 win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

James added 11 rebounds and seven assists, and Dennis Schroder finished with 12 points for Los Angeles.

“That’s why he’s great,” Lakers coach Frank Vogel said of James taking over the game with Davis. “He finds a way to make those superhero-type of plays. Our focus is on making sure we don’t need those superhero-type of plays to close games out.”

Jonas Valanciunas, Dillon Brooks and Gorgui Dieng led Memphis with 13 points apiece, and Brandon Clarke added 12 points. Valanciunas finished with 11 rebounds.

On a poor shooting night for both teams, the Lakers were able to depend on James and Davis down the stretch. Los Angeles trailed 79-77 with five minutes left when the two big men combined for a 9-2 run and an 86-81 lead. The final basket came on a dunk by Davis on an assist from James.

James and Davis combined for a run of 15 points late in the fourth to take the lead to 92-83 with 31.1 seconds left.

“I have a lot of confidence in LeBron James in the fourth quarter,” Vogel said. “I don’t really know any other way to say that. I trust him.”

Memphis was able to put together some late baskets to make it close, but couldn’t overtake the Lakers, who won their fourth straight.

“Obviously in a hard fought game like that, you hope to come out with a victory,” Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. “But our guys were amazing.”

“Effort again. But the attention to detail, the execution. These guys, for 48 minutes, were unbelievable. Came up a little short in the end.”

Nuggets 123, Timberwolves 116

Nikola Jokic scored 13 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter after losing his cool earlier in the game, and the Denver Nuggets scrambled late to beat Minnesota for their 10th straight win over the Timberwolves.

Jokic shook off two second-quarter technical fouls—one for hanging on the rim and another for jawing at an official—to lead the Nuggets to the comeback victory. He also had 15 rebounds.

Will Barton added 20 points and reserve JaMychal Green had 17 for the Nuggets, who squandered an 18-point lead



in the first half and fell behind by eight. They went on a 15-0 run in the fourth quarter to take control. Denver held Minnesota scoreless for more than five minutes during the decisive stretch.

D’Angelo Russell scored 33 points and Juancho Hernangomez added 25 against his former team. It was the fifth straight loss for the Timberwolves.

This game appeared headed toward a blowout when Denver opened a 49-31 lead with 7:30 remaining in the first half. But the Timberwolves caught fire behind the shooting of Hernangomez, who was acquired along with Malik Beasley and

Jarred Vanderbilt in a deal with Denver last February.

It was the second time in three days the teams faced each other. Denver beat the Timberwolves 124-109 in Minnesota on Sunday behind Jokic’s triple-double.

Jokic entered this one leading the NBA in assists (12.8 per game)—and turnovers (5.3). The miscues come with the territory when he touches the ball so much, coach Michael Malone conceded. Although, Malone wants to see Jokic’s assist-to-turnover ratio around 3-to-1.

“He understands he has to be better and I’m sure that he will,” Malone said.

Nets 130, Jazz 96

Kyrie Irving scored 20 of his 29 points in the first half to lead the undermanned Brooklyn Nets to a win over the Utah Jazz.

Brooklyn, which entered the game having lost two straight and four of five, never trailed. The Nets led 35-14 after the first quarter and 63-44 at halftime. Brooklyn’s 19-point halftime lead was its biggest in about 10 months. In the Nets’ 139-120 win over San Antonio on Mar. 6, 2020, they had a 21-point (75-54) halftime lead.

Irving was a prime factor in the Nets’ first-half attack, scoring 18 points in the

first quarter and 20 by halftime. Irving’s 18 first-quarter points were the third-most scored by any player on any team in an opening quarter this season. His 20 first-half points marked the fifth time this season he had that many in an opening half.

“(Irving is) going to score,” Bruce Brown said. “He was hot. ... Kyrie just went crazy today.”

As brilliant as he was individually, Irving had help from Jarrett Allen and Caris LeVert.

Allen recorded his third double-double of the season with 19 points and 18 rebounds, while LeVert came off the bench to score 24 points.

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) looks to take a shot against Memphis Grizzlies forward Brandon Clarke (15) and center Jonas Valanciunas (17) in the second half of an NBA game Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, in Memphis, Tenn.

Spurs 116, Clippers 113

Patty Mills hit a career-high eight 3-pointers and scored 27 points off the bench, and the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Los Angeles Clippers to snap a four-game skid.

Dejounte Murray added 21 points, Rudy Gay had 16 points, LaMarcus Aldridge 14 points and Keldon Johnson a career-high 11 rebounds for the Spurs. They led by 24 in the first quarter and withstood an onslaught by Kawhi Leonard in the third before nearly blowing their lead in the fourth.

Leonard scored a game-high 30 points and had 10 assists. The Clippers were without Paul George, who tweaked his ankle in Sunday’s win over Phoenix.

The Spurs opened the fourth with a 12-2 run that restored their lead to double digits. Mills hit three 3-pointers in a row to extend San Antonio’s lead to 111-96.

But the Clippers kept clawing. They closed the game on a 17-5 run despite Leonard scoring just two points in the fourth quarter, when his shot from the right side with five seconds left missed.

Bulls 111, Trail Blazers 108

The Bulls’ first game out West ended in a 111-108 victory at the Portland Trail Blazers in which they overcame a 20-point first-half deficit. With the result, they move to 4-4 on the season and have won four of five games.

The Trail Blazers burst out of the gates firing in this one, draining 3s in each of their first four possessions of the first quarter—one from Robert Covington, one from C.J. McCollum and two from Damian Lillard.

En route to a 39-point first quarter overall, they shot 8-for-15 from deep and got 13 points and four assists from Lillard. The Bulls bounced back and held the hosts to a 15-point second quarter as they trimmed the deficit, but they heated up again in the third quarter, going 5-for-10 on a lot of well-contested attempts.

Portland ultimately ended the night 19-for-51 (37.3 percent) from 3-point range, but that figure waned late. Lillard and McCollum combined for 50 points.

Report: NBA aiming for \$2.5B per expansion team

NEW YORK—The NBA is seriously discussing expansion. Profits are way down amid the coronavirus pandemic, and expansion fees would provide a jolt of cash.

How much cash?

Within the league office, sources said officials have floated the price tag of \$2.5 billion each for two expansion teams in the near future.

That’d be \$166,666,667 for each of the existing 30 teams. Could the league really generate that much? It’d be a record for a North American sports-franchise sale. The current high is the \$2.35 billion Joseph Tsai paid for the Nets in 2019.

But the most valuable fran-

chises don’t often come onto the market. Forbes valued seven NBA teams as worth at least \$2.5 billion (though before coronavirus rocked the NBA). The league could work with potential owners to choose the most lucrative cities to place a new team.

This wouldn’t be buying the Timberwolves, whom Glen Taylor is mandating be kept in Minnesota. The NBA could put expansion franchises practically anywhere. Seattle is by far the most likely destination, but the second city is more open—Las Vegas, Kansas City, Louisville, Mexico City and more.

From 1967-2008, the Seattle Supersonics were the

epicenter of professional basketball in the Emerald City before Clay Bennet moved the team to Oklahoma City.

Ever since then, Seattle has not had an NBA team despite numerous efforts to resurrect the Supersonics whether it be failed purchases of other franchises such as the Sacramento Kings or hoping for expansion.

One of the reasons the Supersonics moved was a lack of an arena that met NBA standards and after Clay Bennet failed to get \$500 million in public funding from local taxes, he moved the team to his hometown. Since then, Seattle was awarded an NHL franchise, the Seattle Kraken

which led to a renovation of Key Arena to Climate Pledge Arena. The arena meets modern NBA standards.

Seattle still owns all the history with the Supersonics name so an expansion franchise can take the name and reclaim the history similar to when the Cleveland Browns were moved to Baltimore and later an expansion team was placed in Cleveland.

This past summer, Kevin Calabro, the longtime voice of the Seattle Supersonics and former Trail Blazers play-by-play commentator, told NBC Sports NW’s Joe Fann he thought the Supersonics could return within five years.

No surprise: Peyton Hall of Fame finalist

NEW YORK (AP)—Peyton Manning, no surprise, is among 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's class of 2021.

The star quarterback, owner of a record five NFL Most Valuable Player awards and two Super Bowl titles, was the first finalist revealed by the hall on Tuesday night.

Manning, of course, was one of the most prolific passers in NFL history. In 18 pro seasons and 265 starts out of 266 games played since being the top overall draft choice by Indianapolis in 1998, he had 14 seasons with 4,000-plus yards passing.

When he retired following leading Denver to the 2015 league title, Manning held NFL records for career passing yards (71,940), career passing touchdowns (539) and consecutive seasons with at least 25 passing touchdowns (13).

He won 201 of those games, including playoffs, guiding the Colts to the 2006 NFL championship. He also made the Super Bowl for the 2009 and 2013 seasons, was a seven-time All-Pro, and a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 2000s.

Joining Manning as a finalist was one of the players he threw to, wide receiver Reggie Wayne, a finalist for the second time. First-year eligible Calvin Johnson and second-time finalist Torry Holt also made the cut among receivers.

Wayne played in two Super Bowls with Manning.

Four defensive backs, including current 49ers gen-



AP
In this Nov. 08, 2020 file photo, a statue of Peyton Manning sits outside of Lucas Oil Stadium during an NFL game in Indianapolis.

was one of three linebackers making the finals, joining Sam Mills—a star in the USFL and then the NFL—and Clay Matthews, who led some strong Cleveland defenses from 1978-1993 before playing three seasons in Atlanta. Thomas and Mills became second-time finalists, and Matthews for the first time.

Two offensive linemen who have been frequent finalists round out the potential class of 2021: Alan Faneca and Tony Boselli. Faneca, who played guard and tackle and starred for three franchises (Steelers, Jets, Cardinals) made his sixth final in as many years of eligibility, while Boselli, a standout for Jacksonville, reached the finals for a fifth time.

Voting on the entrants to the hall will be conducted later this month, with the inductees announced during Super Bowl week. A maximum of five modern-day players can be chosen, along with three previously announced candidates should they get the required votes: coach Tom Flores, contributor Bill Nunn, and senior Drew Pearson.

Inductions are scheduled for next August, when the 2020 class and a special centennial class also will be enshrined after the COVID-19 pandemic forced postponement of those ceremonies last summer.

eral manager John Lynch, advanced. This will be Lynch's eighth time as a finalist, while it's the first for Charles Woodson in his initial year of eligibility, and Ronde Barber, and the second for appearance in the finals for Leroy Butler.

"I am just enjoying this mo-

ment, sitting here watching those highlights and what you immediately do is kind of reliving some of those moments," Woodson said. "To me it is not lost to be in this moment, to be a Hall of Fame finalist in the



first year; it takes a lot to get to this point. You really have to make an impact on the game and I am excited to be in this moment."

Two of the NFL's most dependable defensive linemen got to the finals: sack master Jared

Allen and versatile Richard Seymour. Allen, who had 136 sacks and forced four safeties, is another first-year eligible player, while Seymour has made the finals for three of his four eligible years.

Zach Thomas, who also excelled on special teams,

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carson Wentz needs time away to think about his future with the Philadelphia Eagles and there's hope his relationship with the team won't end in a divorce, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Wentz was benched for the final four games of the worst season of his five-year career and was inactive Sunday in a loss to Washington. He hasn't spoken to reporters since Dec. 6.

Wentz also hasn't discussed his future with team officials yet, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because it's a private matter. The person said those conversations will take place when the time is right.

Wentz's relationship with the organization is strained, according to another person close to the situation. It'll take both sides coming together to make it work.

General manager Howie Roseman said Monday the team is not thinking about trading Wentz "right now."

"We are talking about a guy

Wentz needs time to think about future in Philly

that's immensely talented, has a great work ethic and doing whatever we can to put him in the best possible situation to be successful," Roseman said.

After Jalen Hurts replaced him as the starter, Wentz said: "Obviously, that's frustrating as a competitor and just the personality that I have, I want to be the guy out there."

Though he hasn't said anything publicly since those postgame comments, it's obvious Wentz wants to play.

"No one wants to be a backup anything in this league. I do not wanna be a backup tight end. Carson Wentz doesn't want to be a backup quarterback," said Zach Ertz, one of Wentz's closest friends on the team. "I haven't spoken with him (about) what his plan is for the future."

If Wentz decides to ask for a trade, the Eagles should have several interested suitors. A reunion with Frank Reich in Indianapolis would be an ideal scenario. Wentz thrived under

Reich, who was Philadelphia's offensive coordinator in 2016-17. The Colts went 11-5 with Philip Rivers and are in the playoffs. But the 39-year-old Rivers isn't under contract for next season.

The Eagles would absorb a significant cap hit of \$33.8 million in dead money on the 2021 cap if they trade Wentz before March 19. That number increases to \$43.8 million if Wentz is traded after that date because he's due a \$10 million roster bonus by the third day of the new league year. The higher figure in dead money could be split over two years—\$19.3 million in 2021 and \$24.5 million in 2022—if Wentz is dealt after June 1.

It's possible Wentz's agents could work with Philadelphia and a potential new team to alleviate some of the cap hit.

Of course, the Eagles don't have to accommodate a trade request. Hurts showed potential in four starts but not

enough to prove he's a franchise quarterback yet.

The Eagles traded up twice in the 2016 NFL draft to select Wentz with the No. 2 overall pick. He started all 16 games as a rookie and finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017. But Wentz tore two knee ligaments in Week 14 that season and watched Nick Foles lead the Eagles to the franchise's first Super Bowl title.

A back injury ended Wentz's season early in 2018 and Foles led the Eagles to a playoff victory.

Wentz started every game in 2019 and helped the Eagles win the NFC East with an excellent four-game stretch in December. He became the first QB in NFL history to throw for 4,000 yards without a wide receiver having 500 yards receiving and became the first QB to throw 20 or more touchdowns and seven or fewer interceptions in three straight seasons.



But he was knocked out of his first career playoff start after nine snaps because of a concussion. Wentz hasn't been the same since that hit from Jadeveon Clowney. He posted a 72.8 passer rating, 16 interceptions and lost four fumbles in 12 starts in 2020. The Eagles finished 4-11-1.

A fresh start with a new team could help Wentz rejuvenate his career but a breakup won't occur until attempts at a reconciliation are exhausted.

Tough luck for Browns

Amid a masked, muted celebration in the locker room after the Browns ended the NFL's longest playoff drought, coach Kevin Stefanski asked for a game ball and then told Pro Bowl guard Joel Bitonio to step forward.

Stefanski flipped the ball to Bitonio, who had survived seven long seasons, 0-16 in 2017, the Johnny Manziel mess and numerous coaching changes.

"You're going to the play-

offs, 75," Stefanski told Bitonio.

Two days later, nothing is certain with the Browns.

Positive COVID-19 tests have knocked Stefanski, Bitonio, wide receiver KhaDarel Hodge and at least two assistant coaches out of Cleveland's wild-card game at Pittsburgh on Sunday night — the Browns' first playoff appearance since the 2002 season.

The Browns announced Tuesday—18 years to the day since their last playoff game — that Stefanski tested positive for the coronavirus, which has plagued the team in recent weeks and has thrown Cleveland's plans this week into disarray for the wild-card game.

In less than 48 hours, joy for the Browns and their fans long-suffering fans was all but extinguished.

"Very sad," Browns center and NFLPA President JC Tretter said. "It's really unfortunate."

Now, after beating the Steelers last Sunday to make the playoff field, the Browns are implementing contingency plans drawn up when the pandemic began.

Official: All is OK at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Australian Open chief executive Craig Tiley is reassuring players that the delayed season-opening Grand Slam tournament will get underway on Feb. 8 and has asked for patience with the logistics and quarantine planning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world's leading tennis players are set to start arriving in Melbourne from Jan. 15 and must undergo 14 days in hotel quarantine, although they'll be allowed to practice

for limited periods daily in a bio-secure bubble.

Reports from Europe about players being unclear on charter flight details prompted a series of Twitter posts from Tiley to provide an update. Australian Open organizers are chartering up to 20 flights from Dubai, Singapore and Los Angeles to bring players to Melbourne.

"There have been some unavoidable delays finalizing flight details for players and I'd like to take this opportunity to provide an update," Tiley posted on Twitter. "There are a lot of pieces to this logistical puzzle and the last few are being finalized right now."

"We appreciate your patience and are conscious that time timelines are very tight."

The professional circuit resumes this week, with main-draw action Wednesday at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, where Sofia Kenin leads the field, and Thursday at the ATP's Delray Beach Open.

Women's singles qualifying or the Australian Open will be staged in Dubai and men's singles qualifying in Doha, Qatar from Jan. 10-13.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and No. 2 Rafael Nadal will be involved in a 12-team ATP Cup to be staged at Melbourne Park, along with a WTA tournament and an ATP 250 event,



In this Jan. 29, 2020 file photo, Spain's Rafael Nadal makes a backhand return to Austria's Dominic Thiem during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

from Feb. 1-5 to give players some exposure to match play in Australia before the season's first major.

Despite a small recent outbreak of coronavirus in some parts of Sydney and Melbourne, organizers are still planning to have limited crowds at the Australian Open.

Tennis Australia is hoping to have up to 35% capacity at Melbourne Park, all with ticketed seating and divided into three zones to minimize movement around the sprawling complex. There's still a

chance there'll be no crowds if the number of coronavirus cases in Melbourne spikes and triggers tighter health and travel restrictions.

"Clearly, if there is significant community spread at the time, the government will make decisions on reducing those crowd numbers, or not," Tiley told Melbourne radio station 3AW on Wednesday. "Those are the things we've got to be ready to change at any point."

"We are not going to put an

event on that is going to be unsafe for the community."

The players will be tested before traveling to Australia and every day during quarantine.

"When they come of their 14 days there's no way they are going to be in a position where they are going to be spreading the virus," Tiley said.

Meanwhile, the WTA released a provisional 2021 women's tennis schedule through the end of Wimbledon

in July, largely sticking to a traditional calendar, including the Miami Open in March.

The lineup tacks on 20 weeks to the tour's initial announcement covering the year's first seven weeks, including the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open that begins main-draw play Wednesday.

The Billie Jean King Cup finals and playoff series will start on April 12, the French Open on May 23, and Wimbledon—which was canceled last year for the first time since 1945 because of the coronavirus pandemic—on June 28.

After the Australian Open, there will be a WTA 500 event in Australia, followed by 500- or 1000-level events starting in Doha on March 1; Dubai on March 8; St. Petersburg, Russia, on March 15; Miami on March 22; Charleston, South Carolina, on April 5; Stuttgart, Germany, on April 19; Madrid on April 26; Rome on May 10; Berlin on June 14; and Eastbourne, England, on June 21.

The biggest event missing from the schedule is the joint WTA-ATP hard-court tournament in Indian Wells, California, which already had said it will be relinquishing its usual March dates because of the pandemic. The COVID-19 outbreak caused that event to be canceled in 2020.

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From Page 20

letics-organized event that will conclude on Feb. 14.

In the individual race, Rommel Buenaflores reached Rota late last month to become the first solo finisher. Marilou Carlos came in next after completing the "course" early this month.

Race director Dr. Ron Snyder said that participants in the Run The Marianas, as of last Tuesday, have logged 15,644 miles.

"That is 63% of the distance around the globe at the equator," Snyder said.

Nearly 400 runners signed up for the race that started last Oct. 15 and features 13 other island landing spots besides Farallon De Pajaros and Rota. The race's other stops are Maug Landing (42-mile mark), Asuncion (67), Agrihan (130), Pagan (175), Alamagan (214), Guguan (234), Sarigan (276), Anatahan (300), Farallon De Midinilla (325), Saipan (376), SIS (388), Tinian (397), and Aguijan (410).

With many teams finishing the race with still over a month left before the deadline, a couple of them have decided to take on the "course" again—this time backwards.

"SIS Grade 5/6 and EA Academy have both turned around and run all the way back from Rota to Farallon de Pajaros," Snyder said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Solo finisher Marilou Carlos poses with her Run The Marianas medal.

MIYAWAKI

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titles in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Youth League.

"Honestly, the level of skills of players on Saipan and NY is very different. However, hard work beats any talent and even if you are from a small island, if you put in that extra work and train harder, individually, your skill level can be above those people who are even playing in academy teams in Europe. I played against academy teams in Europe when I went to Sweden and I was able to compete and score against them," the former Saipan International School student said.

Though Miyawaki hasn't played on island for about two years, the NMIFA coaching staff, led by technical director Michiteru Mita, has kept tabs on the youth player.

"When we had the U19 AFC tournament campaign in 2019, he tried to join the team and I checked some of his match videos as he played in New York, but he had conflict with his schedule in school. My impression on him was he has grown taller and bigger and became more athletic and an aggressive wing player," said Mita, who was looking



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rintaro Miyawaki performs drills during a practice session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday.

forward to seeing Miyawaki join the national pool during the holiday break, but the official had to leave the island late last month and instead tasked his assistant, Jerish Angeles, to handle the group's training sessions.

"It's very nice that he came back and joined the national team training. He brings with him his experience in playing in New York and can share

them to his teammates and inspire them. Unfortunately, I cannot see him personally, but our staff will take a video of his performance at the training sessions and coach Jerish will also assess him," Mita said.

The national head coach encouraged Miyawaki to keep playing when he returns to New York.

"I hope he continues to play at a higher level in the main-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMI assistant coach Jerish Angeles, left, talks to Rintaro Miyawaki before starting their training session.

land and come back to join our national team in future tournaments," Mita said.

Miyawaki is quick to accept the invitation, saying that it will be an honor to represent the NMI again in international competitions.

"Of course, I would love to play for the NMI again and I am hoping to do so in the near future," said the midfielder, who was part of the NMI U15 Boys

National Team that played in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament in Xianghe, China in 2018.

The NMI was scheduled to compete in a couple of Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournaments last year, but these events were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AFC has yet to announce the new dates for the suspended tournaments.



Lakers top
Grizzlies,
stretch
streak to 4

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No surprise:
Peyton Hall
of Fame
finalist

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Miyawaki stays on track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rintaro Miyawaki is back
at the NMI Soccer Train-
ing Center in Koblerville
to join the national team
training briefly.

Striker Rintaro Miyawaki maybe out of the NMI soccer scene for nearly two years, but he never stopped playing, as he continues to hone his skills with the hopes of representing the islands in international competitions again.

Miyawaki is back on Saipan for a brief holiday break and participated in the NMI Boys U17 National Team's practice session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Tuesday. He will return to New York next week to rejoin his high school and club teams.

The former MP United Football Club standout is a member of the Eastchester High School varsity team and also plays for the Westchester Flames 2004 Elite. Eastchester competes in Section 1, Conference 2

League D of the 11-section New York State Public High School Athletic Association. The Westchester Flames, on the other hand, is part of the United Soccer League 2 (formerly known as the Premier Development League) that features teams (85) in the U.S. and Canada and Miyawaki's club plays in the Eastern Conference, Metropolitan Division with 10 other squads.

"I have been playing varsity soccer since my freshman year for Eastchester High School and was cho-

sen as All-Section 1 this year (2020)," the junior said.

Miyawaki is one of only two Eastchester players to earn the distinction. The other one is the Eagles freshman Michael Harri-

gan. Playing in the high school league and the club system against many teams in New York has helped Miyawaki developed his game further. Back on Saipan, Miyawaki is a known scorer and handed MP United several

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13 teams, 2 individuals finish Run The Marianas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TMAC members, from left, Clayton Izuka, Malika Miyawaki, Tania Tan, and Alex Park, pose with their medals at the Saipan International School grounds after completing the Run The Marianas.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With still more than a month

left before the deadline, 13 teams and two individuals have completed the Run The Marianas.

Saipan International School 10th Graders were the first ones to finish the 460-mile virtual race from Farallon De

Pajaros to Rota, achieving the feat in November last year. Joining them on the finishers list were English Academy,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First solo finisher Rommel Buenaflor shows his medal.

SIS Grade 5/6, SIS 8th Grade, Mile High Club, The Cheatah's Army, Grace Christian Academy Rota, Run Guam, Oceania Athletics, Macau Social Runners, Saipan Home School Co-Op, and TMAC.

TMAC, made up of Tania

Tania, Malika Miyawaki, Alex Park, and Clayton Izuka, and Too Slow for Comfort were the two recent squads to log the required miles in the SIS and Northern Marianas Ath-

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